



*Memories*  
*of*  
*Ogema and District*  
*Pioneers*

**1912**

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**1962**

## *Our Town*

There's no cement pavement  
On the roads of our town,  
But they're paved with "You're Welcome"  
To all visitors a-bound.

There's no big grand park  
With flowers so rare,  
Just streets lined with trees  
That are tended with care.

There aren't any strangers  
Who live just next door,  
Only Neighbors who've lived there  
For a week or much more.

There's no big Cathedral  
With high pillars inside,  
Just three little churches  
With doors open wide.

T'is a little place, this town of Ours,  
Just fifty years it's grown,  
But we love it more than any place,  
It's the place that we call Home.

—Mrs. Ruth Cook



#35754

Mrs. C. J. Granger TA  
315-6 Cameron St.  
Regina,  
Sask.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Sunny South Homemakers take this opportunity of thanking the Anniversary Committee for entrusting them with the task of compiling a History of our Community. We have enjoyed it immensely and have found it an interesting and rewarding experience.

We gratefully thank all those, who so kindly gave information, pictures, and help in compiling the material contained in this book.

We also thank Mr. Ernest Neufeld, Publisher and Editor of The Weyburn Review, whose suggestions and assistance were invaluable to us.

## *Dedication*

We, the people of Ogema and surrounding Districts respectfully dedicate this book, "Memories of Ogema and District Pioneers" to our first citizens.

## *The Pioneers*

From distant lands across an ocean's span,  
Of every race and creed, and every walk of life,  
Came the founders of this vast new land,  
Some came alone, some had with them a wife.

They bro't with them their hopes and dreams,  
And essentials that they'd need  
To build their homes, to plow their land,  
To plant, and till, and reap the seed.

With sturdy hearts and strength and grit,  
And nature's gifts supplied by God,  
They founded homes for those they loved,  
Built shacks and shelters from the sod.

They wrestled storms of winter's wrath,  
Knew loneliness cold silent nights could bring,  
Rejoiced to see the spears of fresh green grass,  
Embraced with joyful hearts—the birth of spring.

Reared sons and daughters, who would in their turn  
Help reap the grain, and with a steady hand  
Guide walking plow behind the plodding yoke,  
And make their homes in this great western land.

These Pioneers, their toil of life's work done,  
Grew old, and tired, so bid a last goodbye;  
Had proved their rights, so crossed to file a claim  
For their Eternal Rest on Homesteads in the Sky.

—RUTH COOK

## F O R E W O R D

Dear Readers—"Memories of Ogema and District Pioneers" has been prepared, as a mark of respect to our living pioneers and in commemoration of those who have passed away.

Many names and important events may have been left out, but not intentionally. It would have been impossible to recount the personal history of each of our pioneers, so we have endeavored to combine the various personal experiences into one glorious whole.

In compiling this book we have tried to keep in mind all generations. It has been our aim, to revive memories of the past, please the present, and leave a true record of facts, for the future. We hope we have achieved this in some small measure.

Having no previous training or experience in this type of work, we are strictly amateurs and we wish you would bear this in mind as you read.

In such a book, errors will creep in, despite all efforts to check dates and facts. We ask your forbearance if your memory differs from those who were our source of information.

Should anyone be offended by any remark or story, we are sorry indeed, and our apologies are herein extended.

As you read through this book you will have many experiences and events brought to your attention which are still fresh and vivid to the mind's eye; others will be new and interesting to you although it may have happened close to fifty years ago.

To compile such a volume would stagger the mind and actions of most of us at the thought of attempting such a writing. Not so the Sunny South Homemakers, their associates and contributing organizations, who through many long days and nights worked so that this record of history might be born in print. To them we all give, I'm sure, a most appreciative vote of thanks and the salutation "Well Done."

J. B. KILPATRICK,  
President,  
Ogema 50th Anniversary Committee

## *A Message from the Mayor*

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I greatly appreciate this opportunity of extending Greetings from the Town of Ogema to all who will be reading this story of the early development of our Ogema community.

Having come to Ogema during its first developments, and having spent the major part of my life in this area, I have a tremendous respect for those first settlers of this town and district, who laid the foundations and who are still building this community into one of the finest to be found anywhere. In this 50th Anniversary year of Ogema, as an incorporated town, we will pay tribute to those people, and this could be done in no finer way than to set down for posterity a permanent and factual record of some of those persons, who played such an important part in our progress and of events which have shaped our destiny.

A great deal of time and effort has gone into the compiling of the information contained within these pages. I highly recommend this Anniversary Book to you and I am sure you will enjoy reading it, and I hope that for years to come, it may serve as a reminder of the heritage bequeathed to us by your forefathers. A heritage of a pioneer spirit in which are combined a willingness to work, a spirit of self-reliance and independence and a humble faith in the future of this country through God's guidance.

HERBERT E. MEAD,  
Mayor, Town of Ogema.

# *A Brief History of Our Community*

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## CHAPTER 1



Pioneering—Thurston and W. Howlett in front of pioneer shack.

In 1905, when the old district of Assiniboia became the Province of Saskatchewan, a block of land in the south central part of the province, known as the "Dirt Hills" was thrown open for homesteading. This meant that for ten dollars, a man could claim a quarter section of land as his homestead, providing he lived on it for six months of the year and broke 30 acres, within three years.

Folks said, that the Government bet you \$10.00 you couldn't stand it for three years. If you stuck it out, you got the land, otherwise the land reverted to the Government.

Even before the land was thrown open for homesteading, pioneers began trickling into the country. They picked their land and



Interior of Ernie McDonald's shack. Housekeepers—Les McDonald and T. Neald.

built their homes, only to find, in many cases, when the surveying was done, that they were on Hudson Bay or School land and could never get title to it. Others never got around to applying for title to their farms, thus had no legal claim to them. These settlers were known as "Squatters."

Some of the new settlers employed the services of a "Locater", who brought the prospective homesteader out from the Soo Line or "Front", hunted up quarters of land still available for the man's inspection and helped him make his choice.

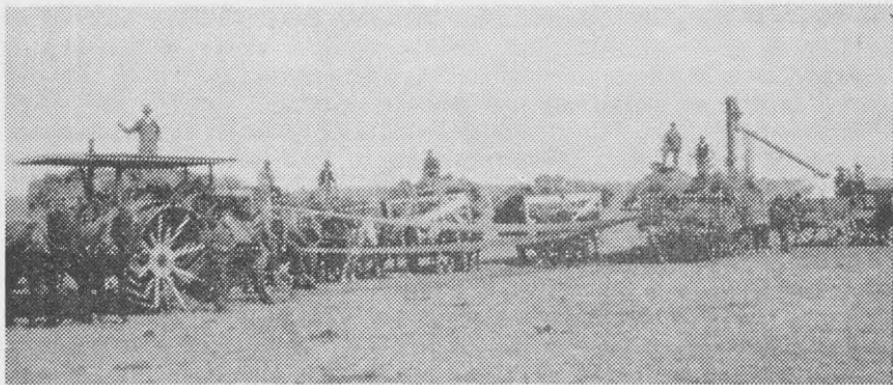
Locating a certain quarter of land was quite a trick, to the uninitiated, but was a valuable piece of knowledge in a country, where landmarks and buildings were few.

Men and women alike soon learned to read and understand the numbers on the iron survey pegs, found at each corner of a section. The numbers were always on the north side of the peg. Directly out from each corner of it was dug a two-foot square hole, about a foot deep. Thus there was a "mound" or pit in the corner of each of the four joining sections.

When a man found land he liked, he marked down the location of the quarter, filed on it at the "Land Office" and set about gathering his equipment for homesteading.

#### DO YOU REMEMBER?

The ride down a strawstack on a scoopshovel or a piece of tin?



Threshing outfit on the farm of W. J. Smith, 1915

Our homesteaders were a hardy lot and came from many walks in life. They were of many creeds, nationalities, and religions, but they all had one thing in common—a spirit of courage and adventure, that prompted them to follow the age-old advice of "Go west young man, go west."

Here to our rolling prairies they came, where the tall grass rippled in the breeze, like waves on a golden sea. Here, where the far horizons overpowered man and the beauty of the sunsets brought a lump to the throat. Here, where the meadow larks sang by day and the coyotes howled by night. Here, where the solitude and loneliness brought peace to one's soul, or drove the weaker ones back.

Although the homesteads had been opened up in 1905, it was not until the spring of 1906 that the settlers really began moving in.

Many and varied were their means of transportation: on foot, on horsesback, wagons, democrats, buggies, carts, sleighs in winter, even on stone-boats, they came; with horses, oxen, or mules to pull them. It was not uncommon to see a horse and an ox hitched together, or a milch cow used as part of the team.

The cart, wagon, or whatever, would be piled high with the pioneer's worldly possessions. A crate on the back might hold a pig, while another, be filled with chickens. The family dog often trotted beside, or under the wagon.

Women and children were given the softest seats on these trips. This was very often a precarious perch, on top of the load, with mattresses and blankets for cushions. The old fashioned high-wheeled wagons, of those days had no springs or rubber tires to lessen the bumps, and bumps there were. Besides lurching from side to side in the narrow ruts of the prairie trail, the wheels bounced and jolted over gopher holes, stones and hummocks. If the load were

#### DO YOU REMEMBER?

The wonderful feeling that first day in spring when you were allowed to go barefoot?



Early method of transportation. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Schwartz, 1910 - 11.

on sleighs, the runners sometimes slipped sideways off the raised, hardpacked trail, or the horses floundered helplessly in snowdrifts. Through it all the women alternately held their breath or sighed with relief, but kept their fears to themselves. The children pop-eyed with excitement, took it all as a lark.

Their first consideration on reaching the homestead was a shelter for themselves and their animals.

Married men frequently came west ahead of their family and had a small home ready for them.

These homes were built of lumber, hauled from the "Front", if the owner could afford it, otherwise they were made of sod. Some even boasted a sod chimney. Often a combination of the two (lumber and sod) was used. A rough framework of lumber was built and sod placed around the outside, for added insulation. Sometimes living quarters for man and beast were built in one piece. The settler lived in one part and his animals in the other, with a partition between the two. Others lived in tents until such time, as a shack could be built. Many bachelors lived in overturned wagon boxes, during the summer, moving in with a more fortunate neighbor in winter, or returning to their former home until spring. The odd homesteader dug a cave in a convenient hill, boarded up the front, made a door and had a snug home.

Power for homesteading was supplied by oxen, mules, or horses. Horses were the fastest, but it was necessary to supply

#### DO YOU REMEMBER?

Arbor day at school, when the desks, windows and boards were washed and polished—even the yard raked and a bonfire made of the refuse?

them with grain to keep them in condition. Grain was hard to get the first few years and speed was not essential with a walking plough, so a few homesteaders sold their horses and bought oxen. These dependable beasts were slow, but steady. They could forage for themselves on the thick grass of the prairie, thus homesteaders worked them in the morning, turned them loose to browse or rest, during the heat of the day, then worked them again in the evening.

The mule was a tough animal in more ways than one. They were inclined to be stubborn and balky, but were faster than oxen and harder and cheaper than horses, therefore, many homesteaders swore by them and at them.

The earlier machinery was small and simple. Walking ploughs were used by some pioneers, while more prosperous ones had sulky ploughs. These were equipped with a seat. Homesteaders often paid dearly for this luxury, as the sulky bucked like a bronco, when it hit hidden rocks, sending the unwary man head over heels.

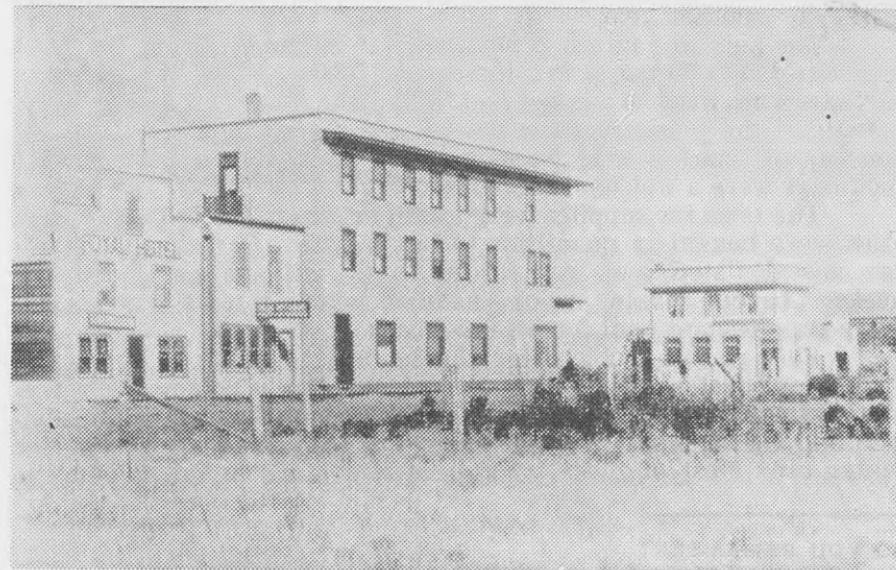
Short sections of disc were used for breaking up the sods and diamond section harrows were dragged over it to level it down. Harrow-carts were unknown so men plodded patiently behind the outfit.

The seeding was done with 20-run, wooden-boxed drills, while harvesting was done with 6 to 8 foot binders, which tied the grain into bundles or sheaves. Reapers were used mainly on flax crops.

New breaking was often seeded to flax or oats.

The crops were small and were stacked, until they could be threshed. This was usually done by a machine brought in from the "Soo-Line" and frequently winter had set in, before it arrived.

The first threshing machines seen in the district were powered by huge lumbering steam engines that required the services of



Railway Ave., 1914

three or four men. The waterboy or "Tankie" hauled water from a nearby slough and kept the thirsty boilers full. The fireman shovelled coal or straw into the yawning fire-box and assisted the engineer. If straw was used an extra man was given the job of "straw-monkey". With a team and rack, he hauled the straw from the pile behind the separator and placed it conveniently for the fireman. The "Engineer" could be recognized by his dirty face, goggles and gauntlet gloves. He watched the gauges on the engine and bossed the other men. Each of the men was summoned by a special series of toots of the whistle, when he was needed. The engineer also called the rest of the crew to work in the morning or sent them scurrying homeward at quitting time by long blasts of the whistle, which could be heard for miles.

The separator was tended carefully by the separatorman. It was his job to oil it and keep it in repair. He watched that sheaves pitched into the feeder went in end-wise and not too quickly, lest the whole thing become plugged up and stop.

Neighbors willingly turned out to help each other at threshing time as extra men were needed to pitch bundles from the stack into the machine and to bag the grain or haul it to shelter.

The pioneers looked forward to threshing time. Not only was it a time of companionship and gaiety, with the good natured horseplay and banter among the men, it also meant the culmination of a year's work at homesteading. Now the settler could pay up his debts. The storekeeper, who had given him credit, until after harvest and the hired man, who had worked all year for a token wage of clothes and tobacco, could be paid off. Very often the homesteader was broke again after paying his bills, but he looked to the future with assurance. He had confidence in the country and his own ability to tame it, so he set about laying in supplies and preparing for another year.

The pioneer's fare was plain and monotonous. Beans, porridge and sour-dough bread being the staple foods. Even the makings for these were hard to get and had to be hauled in from the "Front." Sometimes the pioneers were able to add variety to their meals by shooting or snaring wild ducks, prairie chicken or rabbits. Wild duck eggs were a welcome change too.

The trips for supplies were usually made in the fall and necessities were bought in quantities to last a year. Occasionally a settler miscalculated and was forced to do without something for weeks. Anyone making an unscheduled trip to the rail's end, picked up supplies and mail for his neighbors.

Fuel was a problem for the homesteaders. Coal had to be hauled long distances and was expensive to buy. This problem was partially solved by burning "prairie chips" or flax straw in summer and hauling coal from a mine 20-30 miles to the south, for winter use. Most of these trips were also made in the fall of the

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#### DO YOU REMEMBER?

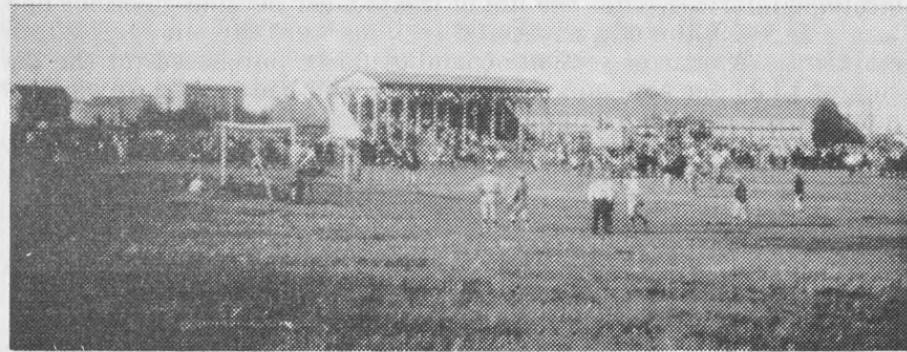
The thrill of blowing the whistle on the old steam engines?

year, and took 3 to 6 days, depending upon the weather. Usually several men with teams went at one time. Not only were they company for each other, but it speeded up the digging and loading of the coal.

Coal oil lanterns, lamps and candles were used for lighting. There was little need of them in the summer, as the people arose with the sun and retired early, but quantities of either coal oil or candles were kept on hand, at all times, for emergencies and used sparingly.

To one of this age, the hardships and hazards of the pioneering era would seem endless, but they were not so to the early settlers. The pioneers were for the most part young, strong and healthy. They took the hardships of everyday life in their stride and fought the hazards with courage and bravery.

Besides the hazards of hail, cyclones and blizzards, there were prairie fires. At the first sight or smell of grass smoke, the home-steaders left whatever they were doing and raced to give the alarm or to help a neighbor. Prairie fires were feared by all and two 6 to 8 foot strips called "fire-guards" with an 8 or 10 foot space between, were ploughed around buildings, stacks and even crop fields to protect them, and the water pail in many homes was filled to the brim, religiously, before retiring. In these small ways they tried to guard against their worst enemy.



Ogema fair, taken before 1932

There wasn't much that could be done when hail or cyclones struck, but the settlers soon learned to recognize the white-streaked clouds that foretold hail, or the funnel-shaped cloud of a cyclone and the boiling clouds of wind. Then they scurried to make what preparations they could to prevent damage. Teams were unhitched from machinery and hustled to shelter, if possible. Chickens were shooed into coops and locked there, haystacks were weighted down with various heavy objects and the precious window-panes, of the shack itself, were covered with boards from the outside if there was

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#### DO YOU REMEMBER?

How close to heaven you felt, perched up on a wagon load of sweet smelling hay?

time, or cushioned with blankets and pillows on the inside. If the storm was bad, the family spent the time in the root-cellar.

Blizzards too, could be terrifying. There was little to break the sweep of the wind across the prairie and snow was exceptionally deep in the early years. The solution for this was to give the live-stock extra feed and stay where one was, until the storm had blown itself out.

The most demoralizing hardship the settler had to bear was caused by death among their numbers. At such times the family or friends made the coffin from their finest lumber and lined it with cloth, if they had any. The bodies were taken to the Soo-Line for burial or placed in lonely graves on the homestead, where they have been forgotten by all but a few.

Along with adversities, the pioneers shared pleasures too. These were simple. They visited back and forth and held socials, parties and dances in the larger homes.

Their religious needs were taken care of by travelling ministers or students. Often one of the pioneers was able to conduct a service. These too were held in the homes.

While the homesteader was busy proving up his homestead, the country was advancing in other ways. Pioneer tradesmen were rushing westward, ahead of the railway, to keep up with the settlers. Post offices and stores or a combination of the two sprang up at strategic intervals. Thus the life of the pioneer became an easier one.

In 1909, the odd numbered sections were thrown open as pre-emptions. A quarter section of land could be purchased for the low sum of \$3.00 per acre and many settlers, who had proved up on their homesteads, now mortgaged them to buy a pre-emption.

Between 1910-12, the C.P.R. made its westward passage across the district. Amulet, Ogema and Glasnevin, in turn, became hives of building activity. Business places, elevators, etc., appeared as if by magic.

Now there was no need for the long trek to the "Front" or to Forward, to buy supplies or sell produce. Here was a market at the settler's doorstep and he took advantage of it.

The grain could be hauled to the newly constructed elevators or laboriously loaded into grain cars from the loading platform.

There were no loaders in those days and the grain was shovelled by hand from granary to wagon-box, then from wagon-box to grain car. After that it must be shovelled, poked, or pushed from the centre of the car into each of the four corners.

The full cars were coupled onto a freight train pulled by big steam engines, that belched clouds of smoke and hissing steam at frequent intervals. The engineer rang the bell or blew the whistle

A few days after little Billie Taylor vacated his shack on the east side of the bank, it caught on fire. In putting out the fire, the force of the water pushed the wall of the shack in.

During the excitement, Percy Wood dashed upstairs to his living quarters above the bank and rescued two new suits—completely forgetting his wife.

as signals to the train crew waiting patiently, while the engine chugged and shunted into position for each coupling.

With the acquisition of the pre-emption and better marketing facilities, the tempo of farming increased. Speed became more important, so oxen were replaced by horses and still more horses, until in later years, it was not uncommon for larger farms to have from 16 to 25 head of them.

Machinery grew apace with the number of horses. Eight foot binders took the place of six foot ones, and seed drills grew from 20 to 28 run, while ploughs sported 2 shares.

Now the crops were too large to stack, so the sheaves were piled into "shocks" or "stooks" behind the binders. This back-breaking work was often done by the pioneer wife and the older children. The homesteader, himself, frequently tended his outfit for the night, then stooked until darkness forced him to quit.

In more bounteous years men were hired to do the stooking. These men were usually from the "east" who had taken advantage of the "Harvest Excursion" offered by the railways, to see for themselves what the "west" was like. They came in time for harvesting, then joined a threshing crew. Even after threshing was finished, many were reluctant to return home and came back the following year to stay for good. Thus the community grew.

With the growing prosperity of the homesteader, grew the buildings of his farm. Rows of granaries were built, and fine new hip-roofed barns, to shelter the many horses and their feed, replaced the old car-roofed ones.

New houses were built too, or if that were not possible, summer kitchens were added to the original shack. Often an empty granary was commandeered for this purpose. These kitchens did double duty. In summer the cook stove was moved into them and they served as a utility room. In winter, they were used as storage rooms for meat and non-perishables.

As the farms and crops increased in size, so did the threshing



Mules of Art George. Driver, Charlie Ribey

outfits. To the steam engine hauling the separator from farm to farm, was added a bunk-house and cook-car, the whole resembling a small freight train.

The bunk-house was to accommodate the crew and the men added as teamsters, who drove teams with racks up and down the fields, to pick up the "stooks" and haul them to the machine. This small shack on wheels was fitted up with bunk beds and a little heater. Here the men spent rainy days and slept — the engineer always reserving the choicest bunk.

The cook-cars were not added to the train until a few years after the bunk-house and the reason for its addition is not too clear. It might have been because farmers had not the accommodations for such a large crew, or their wives were not able to cope with the work involved, or possibly it was the owner's assurance of goodwill among his men. Threshing crews had been known to quit or refuse to work, when food was not good or plentiful enough and not all farm wives were good cooks. But the cook-car was there and it was usually presided over by a woman, who was an excellent cook and boss of her domain. The car was equipped with the cook's bed, a huge stove, cupboards, and long tables with benches on each side.

A "Cookie" or cook's helper aided the cook by setting tables, washing dishes, peeling vegetables, etc.

Besides two lunches a day, enormous quantities of food were eaten at each meal and it kept the two people busy, from long before daylight until well after dark, to prepare food and feed the crew of 16 to 24 men.

Changes in transportation were gradually taking place, at this time. Now the railway ran passenger trains, too. Thus, the settlers had a more convenient and speedier way of travelling. These ran twice a day—west in the morning and east in the afternoon. "Train-time" held an attraction for everyone and the platform would be crowded, at such times, with sightseers.

About 1911-14 a few brave men acquired cars and new words such as Reo, Ford, Gray Dort and Chevy were added to vocabularies, as well as some unprintable ones. These new vehicles came complete with sturdy wooden wheels, narrow tires, and tubes, built-in crank, hand operated gas and spark levers, and bulb-type horn. Curtains with small mica windows were supplied too. These were buttoned onto the framework of the car in bad weather, and flapped or popped, as one raced along at the unheard of speed of 25 to 35 mph.

The cars were high enough to negotiate the ruts of the prairie trails, but the stones, etc., of the rough tracks played hob with the

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In December 1906, Alf Taylor and Fred Allen ran out of provisions, so walked east to Horace David's shack, where he and Tom Ryder were living together. During the rest of the winter the men took turns getting breakfast. When Ryder's turn came, he lost their only pail down the well. Having nothing to fish it out with, he stripped off his clothes and went down after it. Returning to the house he found the other three in bed, still waiting for their breakfast.



Ploughing bee on the farm of L. Pratt, 1910.

tires. Consequently every motorist carried tire tools, patches and cement as well as a tire pump, which was operated by muscle power. This "do-it-yourself" kit was kept in the space below the seat cushions or in the tool box on the running board.

The motor of the car was started by rotating the crank, which could and did, kick like a mule, at times.

The old Ford was often stubborn too, but it gave stature to young men courting the teachers, of the rural schools, that had begun to dot the prairies. With better transportation, the field of entertainment broadened. Cinemas or theatres, showing silent movies could be found in some of the towns. Bands, ball, soccer, and hockey teams were organized. Numerous sports days and picnics were held, while Chataquas, a travelling show held in a large tent, put on a week's entertainment every year.

By now, many people had telephones and rubbering on the "party-line" was a pleasant pastime too.

Up until this time the settlers' lives had been comparatively peaceful and happy. Their crops had been moderately good and they were beginning to enjoy the fruits of their labor. Suddenly war clouds hovered over Europe and these strong, courageous young men were quick to offer themselves for service in the first World War.

They sold or rented their homesteads to others, exchanged their overalls and battered hat for tunic, trousers with puttees, and flat-topped cap. They put aside their shovels and forks and shouldered rifles.

Seemingly overnight they were gone and the community was filled with both pride and sorrow as the ranks of the Canadian forces grew.

The war years passed slowly, with fear a constant companion of many. But life must go on, so the people did what they could in

#### DO YOU REMEMBER?

The old straw ticks which were emptied, aired and refilled with fresh straw every fall?

war efforts and carried on with the business at hand.

No really spectacular changes were made in the community for some time. Farm machinery had gotten bigger, metal had replaced wood for some parts, gang ploughs were used and farmers had harrow carts, but threshing was still a problem.

Over the years, the farmers had become more and more disgusted with the careless manner in which their crops were handled and threshed by big outfits.

As well as losing money from shelling, bleaching or sprouting of the grain, while waiting for the machine, they were often forced to thresh it, while it was tough, just to get it done.

Frequently when the machine did arrive, the operators were anxious to get on to the next job and work was done as fast as possible. Large quantities of loose grain was left lying in the field, and grain was cracked or went into the stack due to poor separator adjustment.

Not only did the farmer have to put up with sloppy threshing methods, he also had to board the crew and feed their horses, free of charge, should they be there, during bad weather. A number of hungry men and horses, fed for days at a time, while the crop deteriorated, could eat up one's profit in short order.

Thus, patience exhausted, the farmers began investing in small combination machines of their own.

Both the engine and separator, of these outfits, were stationary and were mounted on a big platform with wheels, the whole being hauled from place to place by horses.

Grain was fed into the separators by hand. There was a bench or platform on either side of the hopper, to hold the sheaves, while a man stood in front cutting the twine on them and feeding the grain evenly into the cylinder. There were no blowers on these separators. The straw was taken up a carrier and dropped to the ground at the back. When the pile became too high, it was pulled away from the machine with a "bucking-pole" or "buck-pole."

This was a long pole with a horse hitched to each end. One horse was driven or led around the stack to within several feet of its teammate. The horses were then driven or led away. The encircling pole and chain pushing the straw ahead of it.

Threshing with these small machines was slow, monotonous work, but it was the farmer's own and they could thresh when the grain was ready and do it as carefully as they wished. They also had fewer men and horses to feed.

As the final year of war dragged to a close, fate struck another unkind blow.

A "flu" epidemic swept the country. Whole families were stricken and in spite of the herculean efforts of doctors many died.

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One pioneer had a horse fall into a well late one afternoon, so he threw an oat sheaf in to it, and went to bed, with the intention of getting help in the morning. By morning the horse was dead. Our source of information didn't know if the horse ate the sheaf or not.



Haying with a sweep.

It was heart-breaking to lose so many in such a short time, but now, the boys were returning from overseas, so hiding its sorrow, the community wore a brave smile to welcome those who came back.

The next few years was a period of re-adjustment. Some of the boys, injured in battle, were unable to resume farm work and had to seek other employment, but gradually each found a niche in life and the country flourished with new hope and faith.

Cars were by now, an accepted means of travel and the need for more and better roads became apparent. Thus road construction gangs came into operation.

This was a crew of men with horses hitched to scrapers, fresnos, dump-wagons and elevating graders, who hauled, pushed and dumped earth onto the roadside, mile after weary mile. After the grade was built to the proper height and width, it had to be smoothed and levelled off, into road condition. This was done with road maintainers and scrubbers.

Every road gang had its own camp consisting of cook-car, bunk house, blacksmith shop, and feed for the horses. The horses were usually tied to long hitching rails, without shelter. The camp was moved from time to time, as the work on the road progressed.

Farmers frequently hired on with a road gang, after the fall work was done and stayed until freeze-up.

The 20's was a gay, mad period in our history. Everyone seemed to be on a gigantic spending spree and inventors to be working overtime. Each new invention was hailed with pleasure and tried with enthusiasm.

Some of these new inventions drastically changed farming



Laying of the railroad into Ogema in the spring of 1911.

methods, many added improvements to the family car, while others were in the entertainment world.

Around the beginning of the 20's a startling new invention was seen in a few homes. This was the radio and it was credited with magical powers, such as enabling deaf people to hear and curing headaches. Both of these claims were untrue, but it was magical in other ways. Current events, lectures, entertainment, and weather reports were brought directly into one's home.

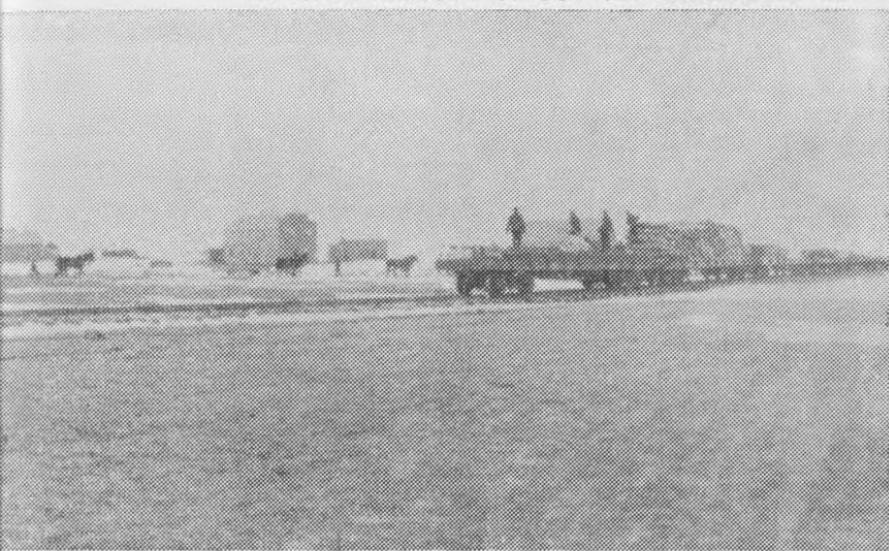
These radios were a far cry from the transistors of today. Certainly teenagers could not have carried them in their pockets. They were crude box-like affairs with many buttons or dials and numerous wires running out in all directions. There was one wire for the aerial, one for the ground post, several for battery connections and one for the ear-phones, through which, one listened to the wonders of the outside world.

Later, a loud speaking horn took the place of the head phones and depending upon the length of cord, could be moved to different parts of the room, for better listening. The static on these early machines was terrific at times, particularly when the neighbors had dropped in to listen to this new invention.

The cars of the day had taken on a new look, too. The chassis were lowered, a self-starter was added, an accelerator replaced the gas lever, a gear shift poked its way through the floor boards, and the whole cab was enclosed with glass, which in the doors could be raised or lowered by turning a handle.

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Bert George's oxen always waded out to the centre of the slough, when he wanted them. Not to be outwitted by a dumb ox, Bert built himself a boat to herd them out.



Trucks also, showed up at this time, but were not used to any extent until years later.

These were of Model T vintage with the addition of a ruxel axel for greater power.

Not only was Dobbin being replaced on the road, he found that he was gradually being pushed out of the fields as well.

Many farmers had begun to use mobile gas engines called tractors. The use of these gave the farmer more leisure time. These noisy, smelly machines did the work more quickly, needed no rest, harnessing or currying. It's true that they needed gas and oil, but someone else labored to produce these, thus the farmer was freed from many hot sweaty days in the hay-field, that he had to put in while using horses.

Of course die-hard horse-lovers clung to their animals predicting the return of horses to farm work and years passed before they changed.

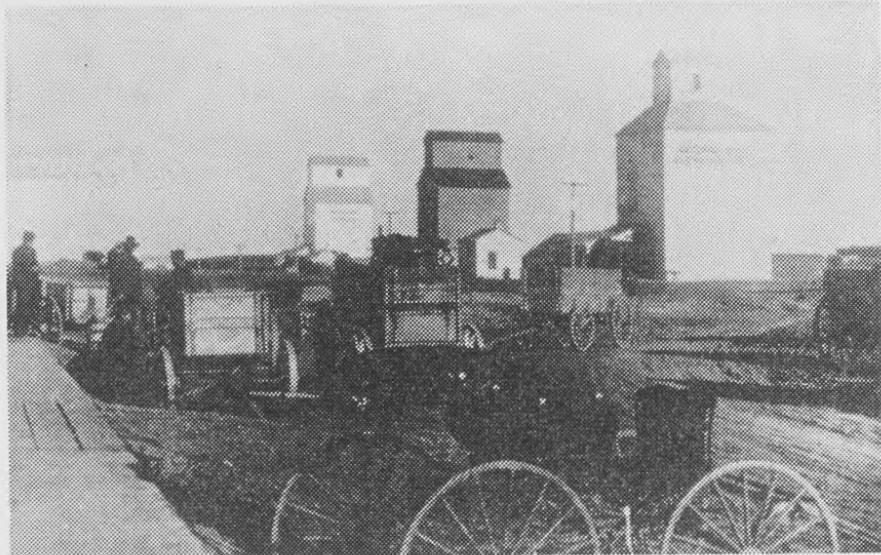
The tractors were clumsy, slow moving things with wide steel wheels fitted with lugs. They had fly-wheels or balance wheels and had to be cranked to start them. They could also be used for running larger separators, so once again the threshing crews grew; and 6 to 12 men had to be fed, by the housewife, at threshing time.

About this time another invention called a "stook-loader" could be seen occasionally at threshing time.

These had an adjustable table, which could be raised or lowered for picking up stooks. After the stooks were picked up, they were carried up an elevator and either dropped into a wagon rack

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In the early days the sourdough kettle was hung over the stove or in the sun to keep it working. As the dough was used, more flour was added to the pot.



When grain was hauled in wagons drawn by horses.

moving along beside it, or into a rack built onto the loader itself. When the wagon rack was full, its driver hauled it to the machine and another took its place. If the loader had a built-on rack, the whole machine proceeded to the separator, where the load was dumped.

The loaders were pulled up and down the rows of stooks by horses and were operated by one man, who worked the different levers as he drove.

During this period the combine also made a brief appearance, but it was not until the 40's and the 50's that it completely took over the harvesting operation.

Early combines were crude affairs compared to the ones we have today. They had all the essential parts, plus a small motor on the front to run them. One man ran the machine as it was pulled around the field with a tractor, driven by a second man.

Crops had been moderately good over the years but the farmers farther north and west of the main railway line, of our district, needed better marketing facilities.

In 1924 a branch line was started by the C.P.R. Company. It cut off from the main line approximately 2 miles west of Amulet at Wallace and was built in a north-westerly direction, to terminate at Cardross.

One of our pioneers had company visit him in his bachelor shack. He was short of provisions but since one of his visitors was a lady, he decided to, at least, make a pudding. All he had for flavoring was some oil of cloves, used for toothache. Everything was fine, until his friends discovered what he had done.



Stooks at harvest time.

As the rails were laid, grain elevators were built at Bures, Edgeworth, Dahinda, Kayville, and so on, all along the line.

A combination train, of passenger and freight cars made the run up this line, twice a week. Thus the people to the north were given shorter hauls for their produce with better mail and transportation service. And the whole community rejoiced in their good fortune.

During the 20's the community was virtually a land of milk and honey. It was the time of "Flappers," coonskin coats, and the Charleston.

Individual farmers suffered occasional set backs, from hail, frost, or other misfortunes, but as a whole the district was prosperous, and in 1928 an all time high in wheat production was reached.

For years, it had been the practice of farmers to burn their stubble and even whole fields of poor-yielding grain, to save time and labor in preparation for the next crop. Straw-stacks not used for feed or bedding were burned too. Crop after crop had been grown on fields, with nothing put back into the soil and without a thought for the laws of nature. But nature has a way of striking back and bringing people abruptly to their senses.

As the "Roaring 20's" faded into the 30's, the land, pulverized from too much tillage and sucked dry of its reserve moisture, began to stir and shift with every little breeze.

Before long the breezes had stiffened into full-sized gales, that continued for days at a time. The top soil lifted with the wind, until the air became filled with it. It sifted and drifted until it

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**DO YOU REMEMBER?**

The excitement and bustle at threshing time, practical jokes, gay banter and huge mounds of food?

came to rest in ditches or other low spots. It buried fences and old pieces of machinery. It cut the grain and grass off at ground level and blew the soil away, exposing the roots. It made the sunrise and sunset blood red. It stung the nostrils of man, smarted the eyes, and gritted in the teeth.

There was no defence against it. Storm windows were left on during the summer, in a vain attempt, to keep it out of houses, but curtains at the windows would be gray with it and the pattern in the linoleum indistinguishable at times.

Women set their tables hurriedly and spread a cloth over it, until the family was ready to eat.

Sloughs and lakes, not known to have been dry before, were worked up and seeded. Wells went dry and water was sometimes hauled for miles.

As if the drought were not enough; grasshoppers appeared. Great clouds of them darkened the sun and literally mowed off everything edible, when they landed.

By 1931 the feed problem was so acute, that the municipalities financed a drive of some 200 head of horses to Forget for the winter, and more horses were shipped down later. However this venture was not too successful, as some of the horses died before spring and the others came home in poor condition. There had been plenty of grass, but it lacked the proper nourishment.

About this time the Russian Thistle made its appearance and was cut for feed along with "buckbrush." A couple of years, when hay was scarce, the scanty crops were cut and stacked as feed. At times even this was not enough and the Government was forced to ship in "relief" feed. Carloads of baled hay and straw were doled out to the farmers. Cars containing fruit, vegetables, fish and bedding were shipped from the eastern provinces and rationed out to the people also. Many will remember vividly, the huge slabs of dried cod fish received during the 30's.

By now the bottom had dropped out of market prices. Wheat sold for around 29 cents per bushel. Eggs went down to 5 cents and 6 cents per dozen and a good milch cow could be bought for \$10.00 —if one had the \$10.00.

There was very little cash in the community and the majority of people were on relief.

Now the Government began setting up "community pastures" in areas unsuitable for farming and it also encouraged farmers to have dugouts made, to conserve surface run-off; by offering financial assistance.

Aeroplanes at this period, were being used in more prosperous communities, so now a plane ambulance service was organized in our district.

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One farmer's horse was lousy. In order to get rid of the lice, he washed it with coal oil. As he struck a match to light his pipe, he saw a louse come out to the end of the hair. He touched it with the lighted match. Result, the horse burned along with the barn.



Taken at the home of Mont. Lock, 1915

Otherwise transportation was much the same as pioneer days, except that many took their now useless cars, removed the hood and motor, added a pole and hitched a team to it. These became known as "Bennett Buggies."

The "Dirty Thirties", as those years are often called, was a time of discouragement and helplessness. Many families loaded up their possessions and went elsewhere, often to pioneer again and one wonders, just who were the most courageous; those who left to start anew, or those who stayed, to brave the hot dry winds, dust storms and grasshoppers.

Toward the latter part of the 30's, weather conditions improved, but now rust attacked the wheat and new rust-resistant kinds had to be found. Thatcher wheat seemed to be the answer to this problem and the future once more held promise, but not for long.

In 1939, the country was again plunged into war. Now our young girls as well as the men were taken, and this war was brought closer to home and made more real by daily reports of its progress on the radio, interspersed with lists of those killed in action or missing.

The next few years were spent in all-out war work and recovery from the depression.

#### DO YOU REMEMBER?

How one thresher tied the bottom of his pants with twine to keep the mice and rats from running up his leg?

When our summer fuel came from the cow pasture?

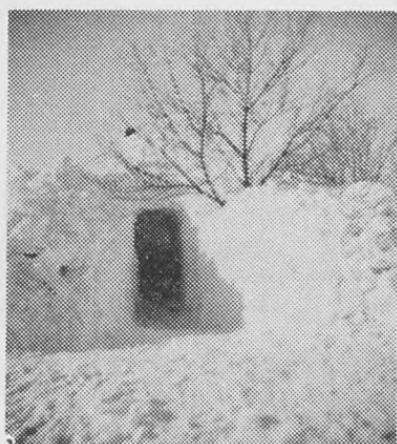
Labor was scarce, so as soon as it was financially possible, the farmers invested in bigger and better machinery.

Rubber tires and power take-offs were fitted onto tractors. Small combines, run by power take-offs and operated by one man from the tractor, as well as large self propelled ones were seen. Tillers, hay loaders, balers, swathers, etc., made their debut and each year since, has seen improvements added.

Trucks and tractors became necessities on the farm. This was partly due to the shortage of manpower and partly due to the loss of many horses from encephalomyelitis, or "sleeping sickness."

About this time the market became flooded with wheat. The elevators were filled to capacity and many vacant buildings as well. Grain cars were hard to get and were spotted to each elevator, in small numbers.

To solve the storage problem, annexes and quonsets were erected. About 1942 the farmers were issued permit books, which allowed each one to sell a certain quota of grain per cultivated acre at stated periods during the year and they were also advised by the Government to raise more livestock, to use up their surplus grain.



Tunnel into doorway of  
N. Eden's house, 1947

So life went on, until the end of the war, with everyone doing their bit, frequently under trying circumstances and discouraging handicaps.

In 1945-46, when the boys and girls returned from overseas, there was no great adjustment period, as there had been after the

Two of our pioneer families came west together in a democrat so crowded, that the children had to take turns walking.

Good well water was scarce and many resorted to slough water to drink, straining the water through the teeth, to exclude an old wiggler.

During the war years many imported food stuffs and gasoline supplies were drastically cut. Ration books containing coupons for these articles were issued.

But these were just small inconveniences to the people. They made jokes about it, stayed home more and ate their cakes without icing.

Although gas was rationed, the Government was worried about the supply of this precious commodity and different companies were anxiously seeking new sources. Thus in 1942-44 our district was visited by oil drillers, who brought a measure of prosperity and excitement with them.

first war. Many employers had saved the servicemen's jobs for them and others gave preference to return personnel, when hiring.

Inventions and progress had also created many new job opportunities, so it was not long before the return men and women had fitted themselves back into civilian life and once more the community took great strides toward better living conditions.

Huge, motor powered, road-building equipment built new highways and re-surfaced old ones. Gas stations and lunch counters sprang up at busy intersections, to serve the long, low-slung new cars and their passengers.

Large gas trucks, stock trucks and transports took over a great deal of the shipping business, too. It was much faster and more economical than train service.,

Coal by now, had been practically replaced by the use of oil and electricity. This left little for the railway to handle beside grain.

By 1949-51 passengers and freight shipments had dwindled away from the C.P.R. so badly, that passenger trains were taken off the line completely and freight trains were drastically cut in size. Mixed trains were substituted, which made the run up and back to Weyburn on alternate days.

The 50's appeared to be the beginning of a mechanical age. Everyone and everything travelled on rubber-tired wheels. The country school children were transported in special buses to larger school units and the rural schools began to disappear.

Farmers were saved from numerous backaches with the mass production of grain loaders, hydraulic lifts, power operated grain cleaners, post hole diggers, post pounders, sprayers, dusters, etc., and the machine companies had a hey-day, trying to sell each new machine. Dug-outs became a part of many farms and towns too, with so many big machines available.

New power poles and telephone poles leap-frogged across the country. These too, were installed with trucks and power operated equipment.

By '52 most of our territory had been supplied with the high power line and the rural folks happily discarded their old 32 volt plants and filled the space with a new deep freeze.

While the telephone and power wires were being strung, oil company crews returned to the district. The countryside literally crawled with men in safety helmets. But it was exciting and the people felt that at last, they were getting some place.

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Sleeping under his wagon one night on the trail, Earl Farr was shocked awake when he flung out an arm and touched something bristly. He scrambled out of bed and rummaged in the wagon for his gun. Unable to find it, he grabbed the neck-yoke. When the moon came out from behind a cloud, Earl yanked the blankets from under the wagon with one hand, neck-yoke held firmly in the other. His unwelcome bed mate was not an animal as he thought, but a drunk with a heavy beard.

Thus when Jubilee year rolled around, the community celebrated it on the Agriculture Fair Day, July 20th. It proved a very successful undertaking. There was a parade, exhibits, horse races, ball games, and a number of antique objects as well as photos on display.

It was during the 50's too, that a fantastic new machine was sprung upon the incredulous people. This amazing new invention made noises like a radio, needed a tower similar to a wind-charger, and came in a box, much like the old phonographs, except that it had a glass, through which one could see plays, historical buildings, other countries, etc. with the flick of a button.

Television, as these were called, took the profit out of the theatre business and show buildings were forced to close or cut the number of shows per week.

Times were changing, but in 1958 the people were made more aware of this, when the old steam engines with their lonesome whistle, on the railway, were replaced by diesel motors and their complaining shrieks.

During 1959, 60, 61 many farmers, in the more prosperous areas, installed sewer and water pressure systems. Financial assistance and plans were furnished by the Government upon request. Now a large percentage of our rural homes equal those of the city, in convenience and beauty.

In 1960-61 we were plagued by grasshoppers again and many a farmer appreciated the sprayers that performed the task of spreading poison so quickly and efficiently. This method covered the fields with greater speed than in the olden days. Then the poison was mixed with sawdust and spread by hand, either on foot or from a buggy. For best results, it was put out in the early morning or late in the evening. 1961 was a year of partial drought with very little harvest, but with the good rains we've had in 1962, the hopes and plans of the people are keeping pace with the weeds.

Rural folks are noted for their cheerfulness and optimism and our community is no exception. We know that whatever the future holds for the people of this locality, they will meet it with cheerfulness and courage, assisting their less fortunate neighbors as their grandfathers did before them. God bless them for the wonderful heritage they have handed down to us.

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Dishwashing was a detested chore for most bachelors. Walter David and his brother decided to cut down on this task, by using the same plates over again, turning them upside down between meals. The first one to become disgusted with this practise was to wash the dishes. After a week of eating from the same unwashed plate, Walter lost the contest.

In the early days, pioneers made their own entertainment by going from home to home. Here they joined in dancing, games, cards or singing. Each family took lunch. Children were put to bed when they got sleepy, on beds, the floor, or even a table. If it became stormy, the crowd stayed until it was calm again.

# *The Life of a Pioneer Woman*

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## CHAPTER II

There, seemingly all alone on the vast grassland, stood a small unpainted shack, with a barn a few rods away, also small, unfinished, and unpainted. No yard, no fence, and not a tree nor a shrub in sight, only the long green sea of grass broken here and there with a few stones and a sprinkling of prairie flowers. This was the home of the Pioneer woman. Here she would live, give birth to and rear her children.

The day of the Pioneer wife began at dawn. She arose hurriedly and put on her numerous garments—chemise, corset, bloomers, long cotton stockings, petticoats, ankle length dress, and finally slipped on her high topped shoes, then with long practiced fingers and button hook did up the fifteen or sixteen buttons or if they were the eyelet kind, laced them. After combing her long hair and doing it up she would step into the only other room of the house—the kitchen. She would light a fire of either cow chips, flax straw, wood, or soft coal, wash her hands and face from a wash basin on a bench in the corner, put breakfast on to cook, and set dishes on a homemade table.

As she waited for her husband to come in from the barn with the milk she must have often stood, in the sun filled doorway, to breathe the fresh damp morning air, to listen to the meadow lark's



Sod shack built in 1906 by Earl and Roy Smith

song, and to see the sparkle of the dew on the crisp green grass.

After a meal of tea, oat-meal porridge, and home made bread and jam or syrup the day's work would really begin. The children were dressed, fed and sent to play. She would take the milk down through the trap door in the kitchen floor to the cool cellar, where it would be strained into round flat pans. She would then skim the cream from the pans containing yesterday's milking into a crock and bring the skimmed milk up, to be fed to the pigs or chickens. After the kitchen work came the making of beds. Some of these were home-made wooden beds, with woven ropes for springs. The mattresses were made of straw or feathers which required a brisk shake-up each morning. The quilts, hand pieced and quilted, were beautiful and warm. They also represented many long hours of hand sewing.

Wash day began by carting water, pail by pail, from a barrel outside the door; the water having been hauled by horse or oxen from the nearest well or water hole. She would heat it and pour it into tubs. The power that agitated the clothes in those days was elbow grease. The clothes were rubbed on the scrub board piece by piece, smeared with home-made lye soap, then scrubbed some more, wrung by hand, rinsed, wrung again and hung on the clothes line, or spread on the grass to dry.

The scrubbing of floors was usually done with the rinse water, to save a trip to the well. This task was a job done on the hands and knees with a scrub brush, that scoured the board floors nearly white, and as a rule when the children were having their afternoon nap, to avoid little feet tracking through the suds.

Bread making began the evening before bake day. She would go to the cellar and bring up a large mixing pan and one cup of starter yeast, kept there year round in a gallon jar. A bread sponge batter was made by adding a little sugar and flour to the yeast starter. This was wrapped first in layers of paper as it had a habit of rising too much and running over, then in old coats or blankets, according to the house temperature. It has been said that on cold winter nights, when fires burned low, this pan and its contents often found a place in the big double bed. In the morning the unwrapping finished, salt and more flour were added and the kneading done. When the bread was ready to be baked the little rancher stove was lighted. The loaves of bread were placed into a drum-like oven fitted between sections of the pipe that jutted on up through the roof. Three flat irons were placed on top of the stove to heat. Ironing was done on bake day to conserve scarce fuel. Often, the Pioneer wife looked through the small square window, on her way from the stove to ironing pad, to watch for some of the bachelors to come for fresh loaves of bread. She hoped they would have time to stay and visit a while, to break the long spell of loneliness.

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Returning from the "Front" in the winter of 1906, the snow was so deep Frank Beebe was unable to find his shack. He got out of the sleigh to look for a sign and stepped into his own chimney.

Once a week the big crockery churn was half filled with sour cream, dasher and lid put into place and churning begun. The house wife usually read from the pages of precious books, or magazines as she churned. When the butter gathered, it was taken from the buttermilk with a wooden ladle and put into a wooden bowl. Then it was washed many times until it was free of buttermilk. Salt was worked into it thoroughly, then it was packed into crocks or made into rolls and placed in the cellar until it was needed. The buttermilk was used to make delicious pancakes.

The life of the pioneer woman was greatly effected by the changing seasons of the prairies. Spring was the time of planting. She helped her husband as he plowed the long furrows and planted the grain. There was the spading and planting of her own garden plot, placing the eggs under the setting hens, and the constant watching, that they came to no harm from the skunks, coyotes, and numerous other animals. Then was the pork to be cut, trimmed and salted down in barrels; sausages to be made from the rinds;

As spring eased with anxious eye, the bringing welcome rain, over pots and pans, to catch the way through holes and cracks,

into summer, the pioneer watched the crops. The thunder storms were the pioneer wife scampering for rockles of water, that found their roof and to see that baby chicks were safe from the storm. She helped hubby with the haying, learning through practice, the knack of handling a pitchfork, how to build a fine load and how to top off a stack. The garden had to be weeded, hoed, and cows had to be kept out of crops. The pork finally cured was taken from the brine, sprinkled liberally with pepper to keep off the flies, wrapped in paper and hung from the kitchen rafters to dry.

Fear would clutch at the hearts of these pioneer women if there was a whisp of smoke on the horizon, during the hot arid days of summer. One tiny spark, in the dry matted grass of the prairies, would spread like lightning into a mass of leaping flames and billowing smoke that would devour all in its wake.

The golden haze of September brought with it the hard work of the harvest. The corn was picked and hung to dry from the rafters, the root vegetables were dug and taken down to the cool dark recess of the cellar to be stored for use, until the next harvest. The fields of grain were cut and stooked to await the thresher. When the threshing machine did arrive, with the huge steam engine and a crew of fifteen to twenty men, the little kitchen was a hive of activity. The frying of hot cakes and other preparations for break-

#### DO YOU REMEMBER?

When municipalities paid one cent for every gopher tail and enterprising youngsters sometimes pulled them in half in the hopes of making more?

fast began long before dawn. The pioneer woman prepared food for three meals and two lunches, besides washing huge stacks of dishes, for the hungry crew, until they moved on to the next neighbour's field.

The man of the house was usually one of the threshing crew so most wives were left alone on the Homestead with only the children for company. The days would be busy, with the extra chores to be done, but the evenings were long and lonely. Often she stood in the doorway after the children were put to bed and watched the night come down, soft and gentle as a caress. It would be so quiet, that she could almost hear the insects move in the grass. Then as she watched the stars come out one by one, she would hear the stirring of the creatures of the night. A coyote in the distance calling to its mate would be echoed by its answering yelp, then another and another, until it seemed that the night was filled with their eerie howls, coming nearer and nearer. Then her ear would pick up the sound of wagon wheels and the creak of the running gear. With a sigh of relief, she would hurry inside, to light the lamp, stir up the fire and start supper for her man.

There was solitude again, when the man hauled wagon loads of grain, drawn by horses or oxen, the long distance to Yellow Grass, McTaggart, or Weyburn to be sold. There, the wagons would be loaded for the return trip with wood, the year's supply of groceries, and other essentials. The return of these, was a big event on the Homestead. There would be bags of flour, sugar, oatmeal, and beans; twenty-five pound boxes of dried fruits such as apples, apricots, prunes, peaches, raisins, and figs; tin cannisters of tea, cocoa, baking powder, and spices. Also boxes of crackers and cases of canned tomatoes, corn, jam, and syrup; as well as bolts of calico and ginghams, skeins of wool, and gum drops.

As the days grew shorter and colder, heavier woolen clothing would be taken from the trunk, to be worn by the family. She too would pull on her long underwear, heavier stockings and wool flannel petticoat.

A beef or deer was butchered, cut up and hung in a granary to freeze. This provided meat for the winter months. These many weeks of winter were spent in the close confines of the small homes. Games and books were brought out, to entertain the children. The pioneer wife cut into the bolts of material and stitched by hand, the garments for her family. At night, when the snow beat at the windows and the wind howled, she would often sing to them, as she sat and knit stockings, sweaters, scarves, and mitts by the light of the fire.

Sickness was no stranger on the prairies those first few years and medicines were a scarce item. During the hot summers children

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An early settler was cleaning his gun, when an antelope came in sight. He got so excited he fired the gun with the ram-rod still in it—the antelope was not injured.

as well as some adults contracted summer complaint. In winter, colds, bronchitis, croup, and rheumatism were common illnesses. Often the cures for these were found on the kitchen shelves. Onion or mustard poultices were used for chest colds, bronchitis, and croup. A few drops of onion juice, vinegar, ginger or coal oil on a half teaspoon of sugar was forced down for coughs. Summer complaint was treated with a dose of castor oil and a syrup made of rhubarb, wild strawberry, spices, or mint tea. Other medicines used were epsom salts, sweet nitre, laudanum and horehound candy.

Life was not all work for the wife of the homesteader. She would dress her family and herself in their best on Sunday morning and they would attend church services. After services neighbors from far and near would visit, play games and share picnic lunches.

Card parties and dances were held in homes, where there was room. Inside small school houses feet would tap and skirts swirl, to the gay strains of waltzes, fox trots and square dances played on fiddles by some gifted pioneers. The caller's voice with its "Allemen left and the corners all" would be heard, until the wee small hours of the morning. Finally the dancers would rouse their children, who had fallen asleep on the benches, roll them in blankets and place them on the straw in the back of the wagon or bob sleigh. These Pioneers, tired but happy, would say their good-byes, climb into the rigs and head their horses towards home, as the sun peeped over the eastern horizon ushering in a brand new day.

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Horace David hauled his first wheat to Weyburn and supplies on the return trip, on a stone boat with a box on it.

Mrs. Kellow of Dahinda tells how the community welcomed their first bride and groom of the district. The homesteaders met Mr. F. Bywater Sr. and his wife, when they returned from Weyburn, transferring them from their own rig, to one pulled by friends. In this manner they were taken the rest of the way to their home.

In the early days a Chinaman ran a hotel in Amulet and bootlegged on the side. He died during the flu epidemic in 1918. The hotel changed hands many times over the years. In 1946 it was bought and demolished by George Ford. Three bottles of "Johnny Walker" were found under the floor.

# *Settlers in the District*

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## CHAPTER III

Some of the names of early Settlers up to December 31, 1912, familiar to old timers are:

### HORIZON, WEST LAWN AND WRIGHT SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Mike Klemens Sr.	Bill McKerracher	Edwin Baxter
Mike Klemens Jr.	James McKerracher	Bill Bromley
Nick Shoenborn	Cliff McKerracher	Walter Ford Sr.
Phillip Ziri	Archie McKerracher	Walt. Ford Jr.
Wenzel Oberding	Herb Webb	Roland Ford
Joe Deutesh	Charlie Tubbs	W. H. Oakes
Charlie Staley	Charlie Johnson	Ralph Gilbert
Ed. Staley	Jack Johnson	Edgar Devilin
Bill Wagner	Adolph Nelson	Gene Nesselroad
Frank Wagner	Alvin Scott	Fritz Fleishhaker
Albert Gilbertson	Alex Scott	Max Fleishhaker
Jack Hope	Lawrence Biglier	Anton Fleishhaker
J. Hanna	B. G. Biglier	Micheal Deutesh Sr.
Vernard Hanna	G. E. Biglier	Micheal Deutesh Jr.
Charlie Bard	Ignace Mayer	Nick Mayer
Bill Harley		

### THORNDYKE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bill Gieg	Charlie Clark	George Richardson
Frank Gieg	John McKay	Dick Richardson
Lay West	Mosas McKay	Norman Mooney
Audry Parmenter	Barny McKay	Bill Davidson Sr.
Alfred Denton	Oscar McKay	Bill Davidson Jr.
Gordon Denton	Hamilton McKay	Bob Davidson
Dr. D. A. Shear	Hugo Hesterman	Charlie Jones
Percy Reed	Oscar Hesterman	Lath Jones
Tudor Godorluk	George Wenzell	Avery Ott
Pete Seminink	Charlie Maloon	Howard Ott
Alex Rooescul	John Morrin	Chas. Guernsey
Dwnitne Onutnihuk	Cuthbert Richardson	George Graham
Tom Clark	Jack Richardson	

### GLEN ELLEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Charlie George	George Reynolds	Bob Wood
John Maas	Andron Donassain	Jerry Schneider
Pearl Munn	Ray Joniney	James Parry
J. McPherson	Pit Geoni	

## SETTLERS IN THE DISTRICT — 35

### MOUNT JOY SCHOOL DISTRICT

John Bromberg	John Owens	Sid King
Johnie Jackson	Louis Schrader	Albert King
Art Kithcart	Harry Rolston	Bill Kinnell
Jerry Doody	Lew Wiles	Jim Kinnell
Nelson Dexter	Bill Poole	Dave Kinnell
Jack Hayward	Percy Tripp	Jack Lemkie
Gordon George	George Murray	Tommy George
George Redford	Dick Gosling	Joe Alton
Bert Redford	George Guernsey	Dan Sinclair
Pete White	Fred LaFrough	Frank Murray
Jim Cousins	Bert George	Bill Cairns
Jim Birney	Alex Grier	Harry Fraer
George Drake	C. J. Mount Joy	Tommy Neale
Gus. Bromberg	Carl Olson	Harold Mayeur
Al Herd	Matt Coubrough	Jack McPhail
Ed Barnes	Fred Goose	

### GLASNEVIN DISTRICT

Andrew Hanson	Stanley (Slim) Gayer	George Mehnke
John Mayer	Mike Lemke	Henry Mehnke
Dick Cox	Harry Bardgley	Albert Mehnke
Allen Cox	Jim Mitchell	Frank Joyce
Jim Mooney	John Peters	Henry Palmer
Jacob Runge	Joe Cunningham	Jim Otterman
Harry White	Robert Anderson	Charlie Mehnke
Jacob Nurnberger	Jack Anderson	Harry Hindman
Ed Mahner	George Anderson	Amos Williams
George Hanson	Dan Seymour	Frank Baird
Silas Black	Tom Brooks	Charlie Halcruest
Ted Wadsworth	George Dixon	John Fadyen
Alfie Davidson	Bill Fowler	Art Reid
Rudolph Bromberg	Andy Kinnell	Jim Garrett
Dick Metcalfe	Charlie Brunton	Ole Odland
Bill Metcalfe	Charlie Caird	Ike Strom
Herb Dougall	Chris Mehnke	Magnis Johnson
Bob Whiting		

### OGEMA RURAL SOUTH AND EAST

Al Armstrong	John McLeod	Wm. Cross
Bill Smith	W. R. Clark	Bill Horn
Joe Smith	Alfred Taylor	Paul Strand
Robert Smith	Bill Taylor	Bill Monk
Sam Smith	Fred Baldwin	Chet Lynds
Vic Riley	Grover West	Tom Guier
Napier Bassett	Vernon Saunders	Albert Eade
Doug. Mead	Ed Tosch	Oliver Johnson
Frank Mead	Carl Campbell	Jim Gauley
Andy Mack	Thomas Gamble	Mat Hendricks

### DO YOU REMEMBER?

When Ogema had a tourist camp, where the Saskatchewan Power Co. now has its office.



Mr. and Mrs. Matt Coubrough and family. One of the oldest and certainly the largest pioneer family in the district. Back row, left to right: Del, Simon, Maggie, John, Annie, Bill, Jimmie, Floa, Harve, Bob. Seated: Archie, Lockie, Earl, Paw, Ethel, Maw, Mary, Barbara.

Billie Rice	Earl Erb	Paul Greenwalt
Angus Sutherland	Frank Mellon	Ralph Burholder
Walter Linley	Bert James	Bob Rowat
Tom Dawson	Frank James	Gerwin Petigrew
Ernie Dawson	Chris Stewart	Alfred Allen
Billy German	Wm. Winklebleck	Jim Smailes
Ole Sandberg	W. G. Lockheart	Sid Ells
John Bebensee	Roy Murphy	Bill Hurley
Jack McDonald	Henry East	Jack Isted
Angus McDonald	Hank Plummer	Ted Upcott
Gib McNeil	Ken Rounds	Bill Schwartz
Dave Bell	Arthur McKague	Al Schwartz
Wm. P. Bell	Hedley McKague	Alf. Merriam
John Vail	Noble Breckenbridge	Bert Mead
Herman Struther	Bill White	Bill Merriam
Levie Gauthier	Frank Peters	Billy Taylor
Jim McCabe	Lew Brown	Elmer Vantyle
Charlie McCabe	Ab. Dowswell	Mat Johnson
J. M. McGregor	Nelson Eden	Les McDonald
Bobbie Pagan	Wes Dowswell	Swan Fladene
Harvey Osborne	Martin Olson	Georgie Nixson
Jesse Barnett	Jim Mundie	Lowie LaFontaine
Charlie Tuck	Nelson Nap	Norman Lightfoot
Earl Farr	Tom Berry	Henery Wiperd
Reg Farr	Dan Greenwalt	George Millen
Ole Farr		

## SETTLERS IN THE DISTRICT — 37

### EAST OGEMA AND LINDEN

Tom Lightfoot  
 Jim Campbell  
 James Rainnie  
 Matt Colwell  
 Ed Dicken  
 Bert Dicken

Roy Smith	Art Stevens
Earl Smith	Fred Nelson
Bill Crerar	Fred Cook
Fred Reid.	Ed Walker
Frank Boyle	J. McMillian

### BURES AND NORTH

Tom Wilson  
 Mr. and Mrs. P. Stewart  
 George Stothers  
 J. Cook  
 Jack Bryce  
 P. Erickson  
 Ellis Martin  
 Thore Tundervold  
 Paul Giles  
 Spencer Higgins  
 R. J. Folley  
 Wm. Linton  
 John Jenson  
 John Egard  
 George Kew  
 Harold Johnson  
 Jim Johnson  
 Louis Erickson  
 G. Murray

Bill Whittam	C. P. Ennals
James Fish	Donat Paulhus
George Paulhus	Harvey Dunn
Julius Peterson	John Lennox
Christ Jenson	Otto Gehm
George Jaeger	G. A. Beck
Howard Patience	Henry Beck
Theron Patience	Stan Knight
John Patience	Max McCracken
Pat Crandall	Charlie Bailey
J. Scott	Peter Jackson
Harry Hingtgen	Peter Roorbeck
John Christie	Otto Muller
Eliza Vanness	A. J. Cockran
George McMorris	John Bailey
August Luebka	John Snelling
August Viergutz	Robin Gray
Charlie Viergutz	R. T. Cox
Art Whittam	J. Easom

### KEY WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT

Arthur Post  
 Art George  
 Ben Grainger  
 Ray Grainger  
 Ernie Grainger  
 Cecil Grainger  
 Joe Dunn  
 Norman Dunn  
 Clarence Heron  
 Mrs. Kaziah Heron  
 Caleb Bacon  
 Roy Bacon

Mont Lock	Jim Burns
Bill Schultz	Lars Iverson
Herb Hornor	Billy Smith
Justus Rose	George Parry
Alex McPhail	Howard Reid
Charles Bush	Bert Smith
Lawrence Pratt	Murray McLean
Clarence Day	Fred Ashton
Joe Brock	William Burns
Walter Pearson	Alex Hudson
Mrs. Frank Beebe	Bert Fish

### ADELL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ed Grainger  
 Tom Hyde  
 Bill Coubrough  
 Jimmie Coubrough  
 Harvey Coubrough  
 Joe Siddall  
 Clarence Stone  
 Ernest Bow  
 Bill Reid  
 Art Porritt

Andrew Kittcart	Gaval Fluter
Reg. Taylor	Herman Jackson
Walt Thurston	John Kittcart
Glen McMullen	James Hawker
Charlie McMullen	Walter Perks
William McKay	William Kerr
Benson Grainger	Charlie Clark
Bert Hill	Russell Leguer
Bob Scott	Robert Longley
William Howlett	Les. Stone

## FELL SCHOOL DISTRICT AND DAHINDA SOUTH

J. C. Mitchell	John Schmid Sr.	John Lamb
Austen Rice	John Aitken	W. M. Lloyd
Vasiie Hudima	W. Bywater	G. Gordon
Percy Wright	Dan McKenzie	G. A. Garbutt
Chas. E. Holms	David McKenzie	Harry Hartley
John R. Murgan	John Fell	Jackson Hartley
Daniel Schmid	Charles Morrow	Ernest Hartley
Gottleib Schmid	Alex Fell	S. G. Bicum
Andrew Allen	David Lester Jr.	S. Myland
T. Graham Walstern	Joseph Schultz	Evans Bicum
J. Bywater	James Richmond	William Edwards
John Schmid Jr.		George Bush

## EXCELSIS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Serse Ritcho	Arton Krasume	Welm Kozek
Eptime Ritco	Peter Marse	Charlie Wright
Estof Ritco	Car Jackle	Samuel Fowler
Nick Covelciub	N. J. Hammons	Thomas Harrison
Harry Jifkins	Tudur Vakinti	Enciu Macann
Fred Gifkin	Harry Slekkens	Dan McIntosh
C. Hadanay	Harry Journey	Jos Harrison
Artem Badmaresk	George Wenzelle	Ed. Harrison
Alex Badmaresk	Archie O. Scott	Fritz Kozma
Chas. A. Bristo	George Bobi	Ch. Painter
R. D. Martens	Mike G. Schnitzler	Herman Sauer
Tudor Kazek	Frank Creelman	Pete Allan
Mike Badnaresk	Eugene Wrabuetza	Tudur Barban
Velm Procopciub	Dan Bobi	Isaac Howe
Dan Lupanco		

## KAYVILLE AREA

John Baten	Charlie Shanks	Christian Brand
Dumitrie Juravili	Gavril Krasume	George Brand
Marcus Luescu	Clem Ritcho	William Smith
Simon Ivanon	Joseph Kook	Nick Pisaruk
C. Tater	John Schultz	George Popascu
Don Tater	Don Poerenko	Nick Tudorvick
George Brittanu	Coston Chafu	Kinrad Schurka
Nick Duduwan	John Popascul	Frank Scheile
George Juravli	Jan Popascul	Victor Cleniuk
Nick Sater	Jan Onika	Luther Geoni
Vasile Ursu	Julius Martin	Chas. Cheadle
Theo Kuchler	Wm. M. McKay	Miron Donneson
William Brand	Orcip Zacote	Frank Mond
John Brand	R. Schultz	Mihian Posaciuk
Peroge Peterscu	Jacob Schmid	Tudur Salahar
Pentili Popascul	Ton Partrvneine	Haki Dronuik
Climinta Popascul	Ralon Narin	Robert P. Coy
Stef Veroney		

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Rags soaked in tallow were used as candles when settlers ran out of coal oil. These were called "Judys."

## DAHINDA AND SURROUNDING AREA

Mr. Vanslach	R. Martin	E. F. Martindale
Mr. Fomers	H. Squire	Dan McKenzie
Mac Mactavish	F. Squire	Ernest C. Moerike
Zoy Lusashank	James Kellow	Stan Miland
Mr. Lochwood	H. P. Hettinger	H. Miller
Otto Druck	H. Ireland	J. Cates
Martin Touzac	James Richmond	Jas Egam
Ed. Moorhead	Warren L. Clegg	B. Tweedy
Mr. Dingle	George Amos	A. Druck
John Chrowanshe	Joe Schulz	A. R. Jackson
Frank Viergutz	William Bywater	W. G. McCracken
A. G. Martin	Frank Bywater	A. Nikila

## NORTHEAST, EAST AND SOUTHEAST OF OGEMA

Ed Patience	Herman Warren	Ollie Holm
A. Beck	John Mazer	Gustaf Holm
Elmer Beck	Mike Mazer	Gus Ingall
Charlie Moerike	Phillip Gerle	Ole Olson
Robert McCready	Bill Martindale	Grandpa Olson
Pete Paulhus	The Brosnans	Billy Webb
Lewie Linton	Mr. Hodges	Bert Ried
Lonnie Linton	Pete Baxtrum	Mr. Wheeler
Eric Olson	Pete Pingert	Mr. Preston
Andrew Olson	General Brock	Frank Holman
Dick Harden	Jim Benallick	Bill Holman
Mr. Greff	Harry Brown	George Holman
The Flynns	John Martin	Mrs. Annie Olson
E. Anthony	Ed Rolston	Emil Erickson
Jim Strothers	John Aspen	Harry Handwork
George Strothers	B. Hillrud	Mrs. Bentley
Ovala Petit	C. H. Dodge	Albert Reddish
Jack Cummings	J. Steenburg	Fred Olfstad
Bert Booth	Fritz Nelson	Bill Phillips
Vince Walker	O. Leedy	Joe Lorrick
Fred Ursel	Pat Shaw	Cebert Nelson
Jack Gurskey	F. C. Fox	George Ford
Tom Runge	H. Guest	Joe Smeltzer
Walter David	T. Rowland	Bill Smeltzer
Fred Ebell	T. Chester	Percy Temple
Mac McCusker	F. Eichstadt	Art Pritchard
Bill Brent	E. R. Davis	Jim Boyd
The Tompsons	J. Andrews	Jack Dicken
Jimmie Mason	Bob Ostic	Tommy Cuthbertson
John Bond	Pete Erickson	Art Anderson
Harry Maxwell	Ed Saunders	Percy McGregor
Bob Anderson	L. Peters	Gus Brunstrum
Jack Anderson	Tom Ryder	Harry Martin
Albert Webb	Horace David	O. A. Martin
Russel Bingham	Chris Johnson	Jim Warren
Bill Lakin	Albert Barnett	Joe Warren
Bill Harris	Lars Brunstrum	Tab Stueck
Ben Hammond	Fred Holm	Sid Stueck
Con Hammond	Frank Holm	Charlie Lloyd
Lloyd Malden	Johnnie Holm	Anton Olfstad

# Tales of Old-timers

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## CHAPTER IV

One winter, Walter David and his brother were without vegetables from Christmas time until spring. The first fine day that came along, they walked over to Albert Barnett's place, to see if they could borrow a few potatoes. He was out of potatoes, too, but had plenty of turnips. Walter declares they were the best turnips, he has ever eaten.

\* \* \*

On returning home with a load of supplies, the David brothers found they had coffee beans instead of ground coffee. They tried smashing them up with a bottle, but this took too long, so they just dumped them in the pot and kept adding water, as needed until all the strength was gone from the beans.

\* \* \*

The old steam engines were so big, folks said, that the engineer oiled one side, slept in the tool-box over night, and oiled the other side the following day.

\* \* \*

Mrs. Richardson Sr. expressed the desire to have their house built on a knoll, so that she might have a good view. Consequently in 1910, Mr. Richardson built the house on the highest hill on the homestead. It was so well built, that it weathered the elements and served as a landmark for years. Later it was moved to Ogema. It has been remodelled and changed a bit, but is still used as a dwelling.

\* \* \*

The hill behind J. Gosling's house was named Goose Mountain by Matt Coubrough.

\* \* \*

Christmas 1910, the "Goose Mountain Bachelors" had a dinner and party put on by Percy Tripp. It was held at Jack Myren's place. The dinner was cooked and served by Mr. and Mrs. Denton. The following bachelors attended: John Myren, P. H. Tripp, G. E. George, J. J. McPhail, Nelson Dexter, Walter Pearson, T. H. George, Martin Olson, Walter Thurston, Bert Redford, James Hayward, Alex Grier, H. H. Coubrough, Wm. Coubrough, H. J. Plummer, A. D. McPhail.

\* \* \*

Many of the early homesteaders of this community were located by Joe Brock, now of Weyburn.

\* \* \*

We were told how one of the early settlers ran out of chewing tobacco and chewed tea for three weeks.

\* \* \*

When the cyclone passed through in 1932 it swept recently mowed hay from a slough, leaving it quite bare.

\* \* \*

The spring following the bad prairie fire of 1909, the hills had a blue or purple tinge from the blanket of crocuses on the burnt over ground.

\* \* \*

One pioneer woman and her partially disabled father were forced to climb down into a shallow well for protection, when the prairie fire of 1909 passed near their home.

Trappings for fancy weddings were impossible to get in homesteading days. The brides carried bouquets of prairie flowers. Mrs. McPhail remembers vividly her bouquet of wild roses.

\* \* \*

Louis Ericson, a settler of Bures, walked and led an unbroken cow, all the way from Milestone to his homestead.

\* \* \*

One winter, while Mr. Paulhus of Bures was away, his sons ran out of food. Undaunted by this misfortune, the resourceful boys dragged a young steer into the shack and butchered it.

\* \* \*

In 1923 a young student minister, dressed in breeks, leggings and a slouch hat, drove into town with Mr. Hugo Hesterman of the Thorndyke district.

While in town the young student met a mountie, who stopped to pass the time of day. He thought the mountie very friendly but after meeting him on the street for the third time, he became suspicious and let the mountie know that he had come to town with Mr. Hesterman. He saw no more of the mountie, but on the way home the student learned from Mr. Hesterman, that there had been a robbery in a town south-east of Ogema the night before.

When told of the encounter Mr. Hesterman slapped his knee and said, "They nearly got you, did they?"

\* \* \*

Rev. T. G. Williams, a busy minister of Assiniboia had arranged to exchange pulpits on a certain weekend, with Rev. E. T. Montour, a student minister of Horizon. On the agreed day, the young preacher pedalled a bike 9 miles into Horizon, where he caught the morning train to Assiniboia. He arrived at the parsonage there only to find that Rev. T. G. had completely forgotten about the exchange. He was hustled uptown for lunch and put on the return train for Horizon.

After pedalling the nine miles back to Thorndyke he was greeted with, "What are you doing here? We thought you were in Assiniboia."

\* \* \*

We were told about a young Englishman of the early days, who drove his team and buggy into a slough to water the horses. Noticing that the horses were unable to lower their heads because of the check-reins, the young man jumped out of the buggy, strolled around to the back and lifted the rear of the buggy up.

\* \* \*

When Alf Taylor sold his land to the C.P.R. William Taylor celebrated the occasion by spending a week in Weyburn and buying a new suit. Alf saw him coming across the field when he returned, but did not recognize him in the new clothes. He mistook Bill for a revenue man and was quite worried.

\* \* \*

In 1914 a by-law was passed by the town of Ogema, prohibiting tobacco chewers from spitting on the sidewalks.

\* \* \*

Back in 1914, prices ran something like this: 5 lb. pail of jam—45c; 5 lb. pail of syrup—35c; 1 doz. cans of salmon—\$1.75; 1 lb. cocoanut—18c; 3 tins lobster—75c.

\* \* \*

Jimmie Coubrough was met at McTaggart in Nov. 1906 by his brother Harve. They started for the homestead, but due to bad weather only got as far as Gib McNeil's. They stayed there for six weeks along with Ab and Wes Dowswell, Walt Pearson, Bill Rice, Gib McNeil, Bert Redford and John McDonald. Gib's shack was 12x14 feet in size.

## 42 — MEMORIES

The winter of 1909-10 was very cold. A. M. Collins, who homesteaded near Glasnevin walked to Matt Coubrough's to pick up his mail. On the return trip he got caught in a blizzard and froze to death half mile from home. The body was taken to Weyburn in 42 degree weather by Art George, where he was bawled out by the mounties for moving it.

\* \* \*

Mrs. A. McPhail saw her first threshing machine along the Soo Line in 1906. She mistook the stacks of straw for grain and thought the farmers in the west must be very rich.

\* \* \*

Many pioneers caught in the path of a prairie fire were forced to light a back-fire to protect themselves and their teams.

\* \* \*

For two weeks Fred Baldwin lived on oatmeal while carrying out his homesteading duties.

\* \* \*

At an Orangeman's July 12 celebration, King Billie led the parade riding the only white horse available. The horse belonged to a staunch Catholic.

\* \* \*

Special tree-planting trains were sent out about 1924-27. These trains stopped at different towns for a day or two. They had many displays of interest to farmers and specialists gave lectures on machinery, livestock, weeds and farming methods.

\* \* \*

In 1933 the street lights were put out at 10 p.m.

\* \* \*

The snow was so deep in the winter of 1906-07, that one homesteader was forced to feed his livestock through a hole in the roof of the barn, for some time.

\* \* \*

On a return trip from Forward in 1909, Jim Burns and some others got caught in a blizzard. Jim crawled out onto the tongue of the sleigh and watched for the trail until they reached home.

\* \* \*

In the early days Bert Hill as an N.W.M.P. patrolled from Weyburn through this district.

\* \* \*

Mr. Bert Smith worked on the Survey crew for the railroad in 1907 and Jack Myren did teaming. The first survey route was farther north in township 8. Later it was re-surveyed in its present location.

\* \* \*

The Key West Telephone Co. was started in 1911 and free poles were given out by the Government. After 1912 it cost \$110.00 a mile to have it put in.

\* \* \*

Just before Christmas 1908, Harve Coubrough walked to Weyburn to get a turkey. Reaching Art George's place late at night on the return trip, he took one of Art's horses and rode on home. He returned the horse the next day.

\* \* \*

One Sunday neighbors found Mr. and Mrs. Beebe building their barn. When the neighbors kidded them about working on that day, the Beebees began figuring out what they had done on each day, the past week. The calculations added up to Sunday. Greatly embarrassed, they dropped their tools right where they stood.

Tommie George came from Weyburn to Art's place one winter. He got a ride as far as Jim Rainnie's place and set out to walk the rest of the way, 2½ to 3 miles. The snow was so deep, that he crawled the last ½ mile on his hands and knees.

\* \* \*

Percy Tripp, Bert Smith and George Parry had heard that badger meat was good to eat, so when one of them killed a nice fat one, they decided to try it. Mr. Parry informed us that they only tried, as the meat was strong and very tough.

\* \* \*

Mrs. J. Richmond recalls how her family made her brother, Fred Seymour, a violin out of a cigar box and an old violin head.

\* \* \*

This year, Mr. Johan Jenson tells us, he has a goose which is over 45 years old.

\* \* \*

Mr. Alex McPhail in 1909, walked more than 25 miles to visit his brother, whom he had not seen for over three years. Alex claims he was really tired that night, even though his mother's name had been Walker.

\* \* \*

When construction on the C.P.R. came to a stop at Amulet in 1910, the track-layer was left at Percy Temple's farm for the winter, halfway between Amulet and Ogema, now the Tom Smith farm.

\* \* \*

On January 11, 1951, Ogema was connected up with the High Power line at 12:20 p.m.

\* \* \*

Early settlers often measured the boundaries of their homestead by tying a rag around their buggy wheel. By Measuring the wheel, it was easy to figure out the number of revolutions it should make in one half mile or a mile. All one had to do then, was concentrate on counting.

\* \* \*

In June, 1919 there was a mail strike.

\* \* \*

An early settler and his wife had never done any butchering, but tired of waiting for a neighbor's assistance, they undertook to do the job themselves. While his wife sat on the pig's hindquarters the man killed it. Then they hauled it back and forth through a wash-tub to scald the hair off it.

\* \* \*

Mr. Neald informed us that a prairie chicken was roasting in the pipe-oven, at the time the photo of he and Les McDonald was taken in the shack. (Photo in book).

\* \* \*

Five large brass spittoons were on the Canadian Legion's property list until a few years ago. Does anyone know what became of them?

\* \* \*

C. P. Ennais traded his garage in Ogema for Clarence Fish's quarter section of land. Folks laughingly said, that Ennals got the land for a couple of monkey wrenches.

\* \* \*

Mrs. Jean Gould and her sister attended a Sports Day in Ogema in 1912 with Fred Mellon. She remembers how the different rigs raced each other at a dead-run, so that they might get their horses into the livery barn. She also recalls winning \$2.50 as first prize in a girl's foot-race.

In 1911 the town council of Ogema paid \$10.00 to the first man reaching a fire with a tank of water.

\* \* \*

Mr. Caird recalls fighting the prairie fire for a whole day in 1909. When he went to rest, the mounties made him go back to fighting fire again.

\* \* \*

Driver's licenses for cars were first issued in Saskatchewan in 1931.

\* \* \*

In 1933 the World's Fair was held in Regina. Many people camped in "Tent City" and forgot their troubles for a few days. It cost nothing to look at the exhibits.

\* \* \*

One winter Paul Strand was forced to move into the sod stable with his cow and use his frame shack for fuel. While Fred Baldwin was visiting him for a few days, a man and his family sought shelter there from a storm, so three men, a woman, four children, two horses and a cow spent the night in the small stable.

\* \* \*

We have been told that wheat was used in place of rice, at weddings in the early days.

\* \* \*

A sweepstake was held on the first baby to be born in Ogema. Betting was done on whether it would be a boy or a girl.

\* \* \*

The first bakery oven was capable of baking 300 loaves at one time. Work at the shop started at 5 o'clock in the morning and the shop was kept open until 10 p.m.

\* \* \*

Mr. Bill Phillips, Hardy, states that his first barn was a dug-out, which he dug in the side of a hill with a shovel. This barn housed some 30 head of cattle and his horses.

\* \* \*

Mr. Reg. Farr broke the first ten acres, on his homestead, with three horses and a walking plough.

\* \* \*

Bill McGregor entered his hired man in a pie-eating contest at Ritchie. The hired man set a new time record eating a two-crusted raisin pie and won the five dollar prize.

\* \* \*

Mrs. J. Isted and Vic, then a baby of eight months, came from Forward to Ogema in 1910 in a homesteader's shack that was being moved to Willow Bunch.

\* \* \*

Mr. and Mrs. W. Cross travelled from Drinkwater to their homestead six miles south of Ogema on November 6, 1909, in a horse and buggy. It was so warm that they lunched by the roadside.

\* \* \*

Homesteaders frequently unhitched and tied their horses to the wagon wheel and spent the night in their wagon boxes, when caught on the trail by darkness. Mr. Joe and Ovala Petit did this many times.

\* \* \*

In 1911, Mr. Frank Mead raised 102 bushels of oats and sold them to the C.P.R. contractor for 55 cents per bushel.

# *History of Ogema*

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## CHAPTER V

The town of Ogema is built on the original homesteads of Mr. Alfred Taylor and Mr. Fred Baldwin, two streets have been named in their honor.

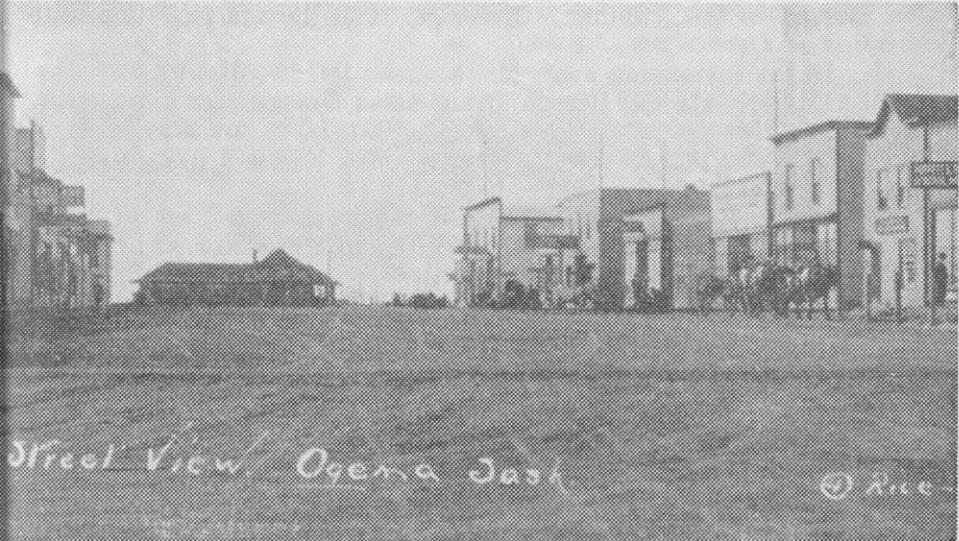
Alfred Taylor was born in Leicester, England, in 1885. In 1903 Alfred came to Regina where he worked at his trade of plumbing. During the next two years he toured and worked as far west as the foothills of the Rockies. Saskatchewan had the terrain he liked the best and in 1906 he located in the present Ogema area of section 22.

Alf's home was of half-inch resaw lumber. The car-roofed shack was winterized with a facing and shingling of sod. The exact location is now the C.P.R. right of way in the southern part of the town.

In 1907 William, Alf's brother joined him and they formed a partnership in pioneering. By 1909 the two had acquired two mules and eight oxen, making it necessary to build a barn. This they made of sod.

Alf married Mable White in March 1920. They had two children, a son Douglas and a daughter Lottie. Alfred died on July 4th, 1960. Mrs. Taylor sold the farm and now lives in Ogema.

Mr. Baldwin came to Canada from Malsmerry Wiltshire, England. He worked on a farm in the Arcola district that year, then



Main St., looking south. S. Ellis' team of oxen on right.



Main St., looking north, 1911-12. F. Mellon's team in centre.  
P. Temple's team on left with blankets on.

spent the winter in a lumber camp at Kamloops, B.C. In the spring of 1907, he came back to Sask., and filed on his homestead at Ogema. When he finished his homestead duties for the year, he returned to Arcola for the winter.

On April 18th, 1912 he married Mary Maxwell who died April 23, 1916. During the winter he clerked in Andrew Fraser's store. He farmed in the summer. March 6, 1918, he married Charlotte Cowling an Ogema school teacher.

In the depression years Mr. Baldwin left the district and moved to Ontario. He has two children, a son George and a daughter, Kathleen. Having suffered a stroke in 1961, he is now staying in an old folk's home in Fair View, Ontario. Mrs. Baldwin lives in Goodwood, Ontario.

In the spring of 1910 the railroad had progressed to within six miles of the present site of Ogema, from the east. This line would join Weyburn to Assiniboia, both active points. The halfway town was bound to be an enterprising place. Realizing this, the farmers to the north in the Key West area were petitioning the railroad to cross their beautiful flat acres to the old Heron Post Office. Survey stakes were laid out to the hills west of the wheat bench. But the easiest route was the fastest and the cheapest, so the north survey was abandoned and a new line was marked some two and a half or three miles to the south. The new line crossed the Alfred Taylor land, right through the farmyard and the lay of the land was thought to be a likely town site.

While the two neighbours, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Baldwin, were ploughing that spring, they were approached by the C.P.R. men and they agreed to relinquish their homesteads for \$1,000.00 each and

the right to re-homestead. Both had pre-emption quarters onto which they could move their buildings. Bill Taylor still remembers the incident of this deal. Alf had stopped ploughing and gone back to the shack to talk with the men while he, Bill continued to work. Soon Alf returned and said, "You can quit ploughing now, I just sold the damn place." "I thought the mosquitoes and oxen had gotten him down," Bill recalls.

A name was needed for the town site and the C.P.R. owning the land had the privilege of selecting it. They have informed us, that the town of Ogema was named after O-ghe-mah, which means Indian Chief.

As this happened in mid-spring and the railroad construction still several miles to the east, the Taylor brothers went to work on their adjoining quarters to the south. Each night they would return to the shack which was still in the same place. One evening they were surprised to see the sods from the barn flying in all directions, some twenty men were tearing it down. As it stood in the future track-bed. Mr. Taylor was not long in moving his shack.

Soon two large tents appeared on the closest corner of Mr. Baldwin's quarter. These were owned by Sargent and Brunton, Moffet and Robertson. They were the first stores in the town although Mr. Erb had set up a store in his big house about 1907 or 1908, just across the line to the north of this quarter. Now the site developed into a bustling hive. The C.P.R. was persuaded to survey the town, while eastern speculators hurried to get in on the ground floor. Many planned to buy, build and resell, some came to build and stay. The two combined exploded the village into a town practically overnight.



Main street, looking north, 1911.

The race was on, every means of transportation was pressed into service to bring supplies for the new town. Laborers and farmers came in to ply their crafts of bricklaying, blacksmithing and building. Farmers would walk as much as six miles to work all day in town and return to the farm at night. It was a twelve hour day in those times, no forty hour week for our pioneers. The hum of activity was intensified by a continual hammering from dawn to dark.

Even the women were asked to help. Mrs. Jake Nurnburger arrived with her family and household goods. "Please cook us a meal, my construction crew are bachelors and they are certainly fed up," she was told. This lady never turned a hungry man from her table and certainly a crew did not make any difference. They soon paralleled the wagons and while Mrs. Nurnburger cooked a big meal the children unloaded the table, chairs and boxes. This became the first dining room and the Royal Hotel was in business on Railroad Ave. Many other women turned their hands to baking, sewing or nursing.

As the buildings sprang up, it was apparent a ruling body was needed. The business men took up this task and formed a Board of Trade. Their first task was locating suitable drinking water and cribbing the well. To cover expenses they borrowed from the local bank, which we understand started business in a tent, until a small building was completed. The Board of Trade also conducted the first election for a village council and saw to it, that Ogema was registered as a village.

The Council was voted in on Feb. 12 and held its first meeting on Feb. 20th, 1911. The first town fathers were: R. B. Robertson, overseer, with R. J. Grant and A. R. Sargent as councillors. The council met in R. L. Green's office, then proceeded to the store of Sargent and Brunton to hold a full meeting. Mr. J. M. McLean was appointed Secretary and during his short term, sessions were held in his office.

The Board of Trade, now the council, was kept busy keeping the well in good condition, building sidewalks and streets, setting up by-laws and managing the village affairs. They held thirty-three meetings and passed twenty-three laws the first year. The first mill rate was 10 mills.

By April we had a town policeman whose duties, among other things, included collecting dog taxes, poll taxes and seeing that the town bylaws were obeyed as they became legalized and posted in the local paper. Any complaints to the council started a chain reaction of lawmaking before the complaints could be handled.

Council met in the school after Mr. Matheson became Secretary. The Secretary's wages for the first two years was \$100.00 per

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A would-be authority on liquor was called in off the street, by a substitute druggist, to identify the bottles of brandy and whiskey to be used in a prescription. After sampling each bottle a great many times, he gave his alcoholic decision.

annum. The councillors and overseer worked for the good of the community, not for pay.

Spring witnessed the first sidewalks, ten feet wide, on Main Street, six feet wide on Railway Ave., with three planks serving as the width for the other streets. In the early spring of 1911 the CPR tracks were laid as far as the townsite.

On May 24th, 1911, the community celebrated becoming a village with ball games and races. July 1st saw a larger celebration with football, hardball, races and a baby contest.

On July 7th the Ogema Tribune, printed by J. A. Frowley, published its first paper, containing a report of the sports day. There were fifty Ogema business advertisements in this paper. This is ample proof that the town had mushroomed within a year.

Here is a general rundown of those businesses and a bit of their histories as recalled by the pioneers still living in Ogema.

Sargent and Brunton started in a tent, then moved into a small building on what is now Mrs. J. Myren's place. Later they moved this building to Main St. on the present Smith store site. After building a two storey store and residence, on the lot to the south, they stayed in business for several years. This was actually the first store in business in Ogema. The original store was used for various businesses, funeral home, restaurant, and print shop in turn.

Ogema Drug and Stationery Ltd., was owned by Dr. Patterson a retired veterinarian. It burned down in 1915 and was rebuilt on the same lot. During the 20's it was bought by Mr. Baal and later by Andrew Haselhan, our present druggist.

South Sask. Implement Co. was managed by W. A. Armstrong and was located east of the bank, beside the present Nelson Block.

Jack Campbell's Flour, Feed, Coal and Seed, was located west on Railway Ave. Later in 1915, Jack moved to Bengough to sell Ford cars. His Ogema business was taken over by Chas. Tuck. It was later to become Key West Grain Growers, under Tom Barry. This was actually the first co-operative business in town. The B.A. Oil sheds are now located on this site.

J. A. Horner's Land, Loans and Insurance business started in a tent on the present Myren place. In the fall of 1910 he built a combined residence and office on Main St., which is now the Kilpatrick home and office.

Freeman and Schaible, who sold Gault Coal, Flour and Feed, had their office where Dunn's office is now.

Moffett and Robertson started in a tent, then built the second store in town, north of J. A. Horner's. Later they moved their business to the north half of the West building now occupied by Libby's

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In hopes of making his towel look more like mother's on wash day, a pioneer put it in a syrup pail, jammed the lid on and set it to boil. The ensuing explosion sounding like a gun shot, sent the man scampering for cover. Later he discovered the dripping towel hanging from a nail above the stove.

The Post and Tuck Land Co. building was on the east side, on a small one-half lot. The other half of the lot was later built on by a lawyer. Both buildings were destroyed in the 1915 fire.

G. G. West ran the first John Deere shop located on the hotel corner. Later Mr. West tore it down and built a three storey hotel, which was destroyed by fire in 1958. He also built a large store and ran a hardware in the south half of this building. Tom George operated as his tinsmith.

Palace Feed, Sale and Livery Stable, owned by Pat O'Brien, was east on Railway. It was later taken over by the town. The top of it is now Ken McKague's barn and the remainder of the building still stands as a livery barn.

R. L. Greene, Lands, Loans and Insurance, also ran the first Post Office in the Baker building, to the south of Horner's. The building is now owned by T. Barrington and part of it is used for the Old Timer's Club. The Post Office was later taken over by Stevens, then it was moved to the north end of the block with Mr. McDonough as postmaster.

W. H. Dicken's Meat Market was just north of Freeman and Schaible, this was later owned by Dave Rowat and was burned in 1915 too.

R. J. Grant owned a harness shop on the east side of Main, north of Dicken's. This two storey building was burned in 1915.

Beaver Lumber Co. managed by Mr. McNeil had their business on the lot where the Hawker home is now. Later they moved this business to where it is now on Railway Ave.

Manufacturer's Lumber Co., was operated by Mr. Grisson, but in the early 20's they sold out to the Beaver.

The Coast Lumber Co., operated by R. K. Rounds, and later by Alex Kinnard, closed down in the early 20's. They were situated where the Co-op. building is.

Rodger's Lumber Co., was managed by Mr. Verne Saunders. In the thirties Mr. Jenson demolished this building to build his home.

Ogema Hotel was built by the Whittam Brothers on Railway Ave. in 1910. Its first manager was Bill Pixler, followed by Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Barrington. This was changed into an apartment building by Eddie Saddler, who owned it for several years. It is now owned by Mrs. Nelson.

The New England Hotel was built by Chang Gow, about where our theatre is today. This building burned in 1915. Mr. Gow then moved into the Commercial Cafe, to the south of the present Clover Farm Store. Mr. D. Downton and Mr. Gow were noted for their kindness to those in need.

The Royal Hotel was built in 1910 by Mr. Jake Nurnburger on Railway Ave. This was a two and a half storey building.

Nights were so cold that even the bread froze. One pioneer lady, unable to cut it with a knife, hacked chunks of bread off with a hatchet, all the while, doing some unlady-like cussing.

W. E. Campbell was the owner of a Livery, Sale and Feed Stable, on Railway Ave., on the present Fritz Frank lot. Bill Borland bought and operated this business until it was destroyed by fire in the fall of 1915.

Massey-Harris Implement shop, just north of Gedde's shop now, was operated by J. B. Phillips until 1916, when he started buying grain for the International Elevator. The implement shop was then used for a garage until the thirties.

Andrew Fraser and Hart Department store was built in 1910. This business changed hands many times. It is now the Sunset Store owned and operated by Ken Smale.

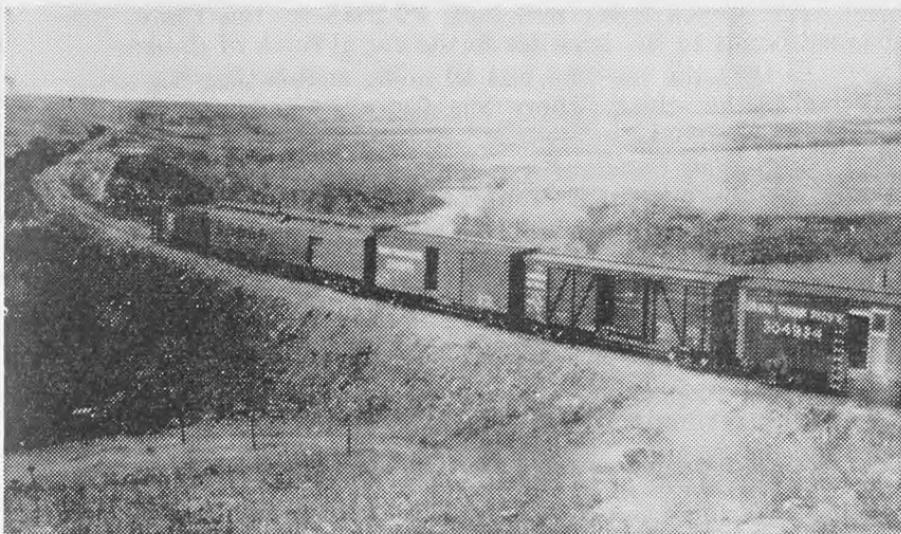
Arcade Pool Hall, including a bowling alley, was owned by Mr. Frank Harris. This was located on the west side of Main St. It was later torn down and the material used by F. Nagy to help build his home.

Ogema Pool Hall was east on Railway Ave. It was built by Wm. Baker and housed a barber shop and pool room with a dance hall upstairs. This was in operation until the early twenties.

Thomas, Moffett and Co., sold hardware and farm implements where our present Post Office stands.

The Ogema Bakery was built by George Stothers, who was a baker, stonemason and a carpenter. Bailey Stothers and Ed. Kilpatrick rented it and hired Mr. Grey as baker.

Mr. Kilpatrick taught school at Bures. In 1912 Mr. Bailey Stothers sold his interest to Ed. When the fire of 1915 destroyed the building, it was rebuilt by Mr. Kilpatrick, who continued the business until 1945. He also cared for the lending library until this date, too. He then sold the bakery to Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Souther, they remodelled it into a cafe, which is now known as the Ogema Cafe, owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. John Richmond.



First train into Ogema, Sask.

Dr. D. W. Allen, physician and surgeon, came here in 1911, he set up his office in the back room of the small bank building. Dr. Kerster came in 1913.

The Wheelright shop, owned by Mr. J. Isted, was north of the O'Brien barn.

The Blacksmith shop, owned and operated by Mr. W. Edwards, was north of the Wheelright Shop on Fredrick St.

The Ogema Tribune, operated by J. A. Frowley, on the second floor of a building next to the Royal Hotel, was bought out by Houghie Darra and moved into the Nelson block. The print shop, now backed by town businessmen, was moved into a small building on Main St. The paper's name was changed to the "Ogema Times" with Mr. Tuve as printer. He was succeeded by Mr. Wooley, who was followed by Mr. Smith. This building and contents were destroyed by fire in 1934.

"Automobile Livery" owned and operated by Mr. Chisney ran from Ogema to Forward and back.

The Ogema Livery, a team and democrat business, with Mr. J. McGee as teamster, operated a two way service from Forward to Ogema. Mr. Bob Grey later took over this business, which disappeared with the advent of the auto.

The Ogema Dray Line, owned by Mr. R. L. Davidson, operated for several years. There was also a dray owned by Mr. J. T. Weatherhead, who moved buildings as well.

Due to the sudden need of carpenters, contractors flocked in, among them were: The O'Brien Brothers, Henry East and Fred Hearn. Two contractors, Hugh Gray and Harry Ralson lived here for several years. A. L. Class and A. Travaland also contractors, had an office on Main St.

The Union Bank, with manager J. L. McLean, opened business in a small building on the north end of the present bank lot. The bank as it stands today was built in 1911 by the Union Bank. It changed hands in the twenties to the Royal Bank of Canada.

In 1911 the tax rate was 10 mills, at this time the school tax was paid to the school. There was also a tax known as a poll tax of a dollar per person.

A Council Chamber was built by W. McDonald for the sum of \$803.00, the present E. Coubrough home.

At this time all the buildings were of wood, so the thought of fire was uppermost in the minds of everyone. A law was passed that all chimneys would have to be built of brick or cement. For added protection a chemical fire extinguisher, at the cost of \$467.00, was bought.

#### DO YOU REMEMBER?

In 1922 Sid King's place caught on fire. The fire-hose was too short so the water was carried in pails from the end of the hose to the fire?

The Chinese who ran the cafe, clearing the premises of troublemakers with a meat cleaver?

In 1912 the local Board of Trade was still active, they held two sports days, the first on May 24th, the second on July 17th. This day had been set to celebrate the village's first birthday, with ball games, races and dancing..

In July it was decided to take the census, in view of incorporating into a town. The job was turned over to R. K. Rounds. A vote was taken and passed. The necessary papers were drawn up and filed by A. E. McKinnon. On December 20th, the Lieutenant Governor's letter was read granting permission. This time the councillors were Mr. Ball and Mr. West, with R. J. Grant as overseer.

In 1913 A. R. Sargent was elected Mayor, with six councillors, W. H. Dicken, W. J. Scott, S. Cohen and G. G. West, C. A. Brunton, V. W. Saunders. M. Matheson was Secretary-treasurer. The council decided the town needed a bell, so a thirty-six inch bell was ordered

The first fireman was Mr. W. C. Davidson and like the Councillors, he attended his duties without remuneration.

The water problem was a serious matter in those days, a problem that was to last for nearly fifty years. Mr. T. Odland was hired to try to find a source of water. One was finally located on the old Jack Myren place, now M. Murray's farm. Water then sold for as much as eight cents a pail. Little wonder that some fifty years later debentures were sold and a 250 ft. well was drilled with water and sewer lines laid.

Harry Worgan of the N.W.M.P. also had his office in the town hall. This proved too small, so a leanto was built on with a wooden jail inside. Later the police moved their office into the building, that is now the Don MacDonald home and an iron cell was then installed. This was used by both the local and Provincial police.

August 14, 1912, proved a sad day for the curlers of Ogema, the large curling rink was demolished by a cyclone. This was also the day of the first automobile gas pump. Mr. West installed a gas bouzer on Main St. in front of his hardware store.

The Ogema Cinema Co. ran shows in a theatre north of Horner's.

In 1914 Mr. West built the National Hotel, which was to change hands many times before being destroyed by fire in 1958. The telephones were brought into service at this time. The first street lights were installed, they consisted of eight three hundred candle powered Coleman gas lights. These were used by night and stored in the town hall by day.

In July, 1914, Mr. Kilpatrick accepted the office of Secretary-Treasurer of the town. For the next forty-seven years and nine months, until his death, this man rendered untold service to his town and community.

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Stealing was practically unknown in the early days, but could happen, as John Vail discovered. John built the walls of a barn, then went back to the "Front" to earn money for the roof. Spring came and he returned with the lumber, to find the barn gone.



Fire on the east side of Main St., in January, 1915

1915 came in as any other year, with heavy snow and the temperature down to 54 degrees below. In this cold weather a fire broke out and destroyed the east side of Main St. The town fire extinguisher was frozen up in the intense cold and was of no use. After this costly lesson the town shopped for a Chemical engine.

This same year the Ennals property, 10 chains square, at the south west corner of town, was incorporated into the town limits. Four hundred trees were purchased for planting as well. Again, in November, a fire broke out and destroyed the large Campbell barn and feed sheds. This made two fires in one year.

In 1916, the need for a hospital prompted the two municipalities of Key West and Norton to try and obtain one for Ogema. For two years the town pushed this project, but the two municipalities could not agree and so it was dropped.

The town council, still worried about fire, contracted Mr. Robert Lecky of Regina, to build the fire hall on the east side of Main St. and a fire wall on the west side. Mr. Townsend of Milestone was the engineer. One wall of the hall was to be as thick as the fire wall and there was to be a full sized cistern below. The fire wall was

Albert Burnett, Fred Allen, Alf Taylor, Bill Coubrrough, and Bill Rice made a trip to the mines for coal in 1906. On the return trip a storm hit them. It snowed for two days. They unharnessed the horses and let them go. The men, themselves, walked five miles to Gib McNeal's shack. It took them five days.

to go down eight feet below the ground. It was to be sixteen inches thick, thirty feet high and seventy feet long. Both would cost the town \$4,325.00. By Dec. 4, 1916, the fire hall was ready to house a new fire engine which cost the town \$3,400.00. Debentures were sold to cover the cost of this fire protection. W. C. Davidson was appointed fire chief. McDonough, Ennals and Craig helped on the fire engine.

The tax rate this year climbed to 32 mills. A garbage pick-up system was set up and continued for several years.

In 1919, a "Return Soldier Welcome and Aid Society" was organized to receive and help return soldiers. This society also started a "Memorial Fund." A large stone was decided upon and unveiled and dedicated on June 28th, 1923. In the spring of 1919 a vote was taken on fast time and the town ran on fast time until Sept. On July 8, 1919 a Peace Celebration was held. Lawrence Hedgesheimer, S. King, J. Lloyd, Alex Fraser, H. Hartley, B. Crooks, and McInnis convened the day.

The Boy Scout movement and the C.G.I.T. were backed by the town at this time and the same year the Ogema Agricultural Society acquired 20 acres from the C.P.R. The hitching posts were removed from Main St. and moved back of the Fire Hall, about where Mr. and Mrs. Frank Herman now live. Main St. was graded and cars were ordered to park at about a forty-five degree angle. Children were controlled with curfew bell. Jack Krueger was hired as fire engineer at \$10.00 per year. The Secretary's salary by this time had been raised to \$700.00 per year.

In 1921, the Community Service Club suggested buying the Lightfoot Lake property from T. H. Bailey. They also helped financially in the erection of a skating rink.

In 1922 the Ogema Aquatic Club, with the help of the council, built bath houses and started trees at the lake. This same year the Agricultural Society had open-air dancing in the park to wind up the fair day. Mr. Murphy's lightplant supplied the town with electricity.

In 1923, a pipe line was laid by the C.P.R. from Lightfoot's Lake to a big water tower just east of the station.

Mr. Clarence Fish bought the power plant from Mr. Murphy and the town changed to electric street lights in 1924.

This year, too, the town hall was opened up for club meetings.

In 1926, a tourist camp was set up, trees were planted and buildings erected, about where the Legion Hall, and Power Corporation office now stands.

Two silent police men, with coil reaction were placed, one at each end of the business block on Main Street.

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Many pioneers started or enlarged their flock of chickens by replacing wild duck eggs with hen's eggs. The duck eggs were eaten or used for baking.

Trains were cut from two way service to one way each day.

The town also sponsored a Gym which was held in a hall where the Masonic hall now stands.

In 1927 the town fathers started building cement sidewalks on Main Street. The contract was let to J. C. Barnholder for \$3,757. Mr. Bingham was foreman on this project, and a little more was done each year.

1930 was a year for cutting expenses, the street lights were turned off on week nights and at eight-thirty on Saturdays in winter. On moonlite nights, there were no lights at all. The salaries of all the town employees were severely cut. Many farmers moved to town to work as laborers. Unable to get work they increased the council's burden of welfare for the next three years. The mill rate was gradually decreased to 38.3. The councillors their salaries and worked to distribute relief. Several businesses were forced to close in these years.

In 1933 the R.C.M.P. withdrew their man from Ogema.

In 1934 another fire laid waste to Ogema property. E. L. Seir was the fire chief at the time. With the aid of high school boys the fire was contained to three buildings, from the firewall north, to the Barrington building. Destroyed in the fire were a Confectionery ice cream parlor, the Print shop and part of the Bowling Alley and pool room. For the year of 1934 there was no harvest, but the Legion sponsored a street fair. Bad roads and deep snow in the winter prompted an Aeroplane Ambulance Service.

In 1940 the C.P.R. water tank was partially demolished and moved. The same year the Overseas Tobacco fund for overseas personnel was started. Also Red Cross work, carnivals, paper salvage drives and blood donor's clinics.

In 1945 the town turned their old town hall over to the Legion and held their council meetings in Mr. Kilpatrick's office.

The Library books were moved from the old bakeshop to the present Library in the Townsend building. These three rooms are now used for teas and meetings of different organizations.

In the year 1946 a new hardware store and a Case Implement shop were built on Main St. A new blacksmith shop was also opened up on Railway Ave., east. Mehnke's opened a new garage on Railway Avenue west this same year.

In Feb., 1947, a severe snowstorm created an emergency. The town was without train service for thirteen days. With snowbanks fourteen feet high the worried councilmen put the fire equipment on skis and the citizens clamored for a hospital. Permission was granted for a four bed nursing home. Construction on this building was begun in the fall, all work being done by volunteer labor. This same fall, the building of the Legion hall was started near the north-

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Gophers were numerous and were poisoned by walking back and forth across the fields, pail of poison in hand, dropping a small amount at each hole. Weary youngsters sometimes dumped the whole pail full in one place, to end the chore.

ern end of Main St. In November the Memorial plaque was presented and dedicated.

During the year of 1948 building of the hospital and hall continued and a few new homes were erected. In December Main St. was decorated with three strings of colored lights.

1949 saw more homes built around town. The theatre was bought and operated by Ab Leonard. On June 29th, a wind and hailstorm hit the town, damaging many buildings and uprooting big trees along Prospect Ave.

1950 was a very progressive year for the town. Ogema was surveyed by the Sask. Power Corporation, new telephone lines were strung and the exchange board remodelled. A few more town lots, to the north, were surveyed and sold.

In 1951 the telephone and power crews were still working in the district and in January the town was connected up with the Sask. Power Line.

A greater supply of drinking water was needed for the town so the Carter well was purchased by the council. This year, too, the oil drillers came back into the district and the town was filled with activity and people. A large hospital grounds was laid out and more lots surveyed in the northern section.



Water tower built in 1961. A definite mark of progress.

The following year more homes were built and some remodeled. In December Christmas trees with colored lights were set up on Main St. and a Santa Claus parade was held, with a free show and treats for the children. This practise has continued over the years. Ogema became part of the Assiniboia Medical Health Unit in 1954 with Medical and Dental clinics held once a month. The Etta Heron school was built and opened in the fall. Bures Co-op bought lots at the north end of town and moved their tanks and office onto them.

Ogema celebrated the Saskatchewan Jubilee in 1955 in conjunction with the Agricultural Society. This year too, the town bought a new stationary pump and a set of 4 inch fire hoses to replace the old equipment, which they then stored in the back of the Library. Through the combined efforts of the different Ladies' organizations the Library was equipped with card tables and dishes to be used for teas. Later a number of stacking chairs were added.

In 1956 ratepayers were given cement sidewalks, if they helped furnish material and labor. At the same time many streets were gravelled.

1957 saw the installation of Mercury Vapor lights on Main St. A road maintainer was purchased for town use and a dugout put in to assure a good water supply for the hospital. A large new Pool elevator was built as well. Many trees were destroyed this summer by aphids.

In 1958 fire destroyed the National Hotel and three weeks later a second fire gutted the basement of the United Church, which was repaired immediately. Key West Municipality purchased and moved to Ogema, an old school to be used as a workshop. Diesels replaced steam engines on the railway.

In 1959 Ogema joined the Pangman Hospital district, the Ogema hospital to become a local clearing centre. Mail service was taken over by mail trucks.

The next year the hospital was remodelled, the new high school was built, sewage pipes laid and a lagoon dug.

In 1961 an adequate water supply was located and a well drilled 248 feet deep. A water tower was erected, more water pipes laid and fire hydrants installed. A new hotel and a lumber yard were built, the Federal elevator was remodelled too. The Chamber of Commerce inspired a "face-lifting" and beautifying program by planting trees around town.

To date in 1962, the remainder of the water lines have been installed, but building and remodelling are still going on. An Anniversary Committee has been formed to arrange a suitable celebration to commemorate Ogema's 50th birthday on July 20th.

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Mrs. Ott recalls one trip, to Readlyn, for coal. On the way home, their horses played out, their load upset several times and they had to lessen the load at a number of snow-blocked places. They reached home with only 1/4 ton left. The coal was so wet, that they had to dry it in the oven before burning it.

## TOWN OF OGEMA

*Overseers & Mayors*

1911 TO 1962

## C H A P T E R V I

TERM OF OFFICE	NAME	POSITION
1911	D. B. Robertson	Overseer
1912	R. J. Grant	Overseer
1913 and 1914	A. R. Sargent	Mayor
1915 and 1916	A. F. Class	Mayor
1917	C. S. Benjamin	Mayor
1918 and 1919	D. B. Robertson	Mayor
1920 to 1922	A. F. Class	Mayor
1923 to June 1930	Hugh Townsend	Mayor
June 1930 to 1933	Harry Brogden	Mayor
1934 to 1938	Harry King	Mayor
1939 to May 1942	J. E. Lloyd	Mayor
June 1942 to 1944	Harry King	Mayor
1945 to 1947	E. G. Crispin	Mayor
1948 and 1949	H. E. Mead	Mayor
1950 to October 1960	Albert Mehnke	Mayor
1961 to date	H. E. Mead	Mayor



Town council, 1914. Back row, left to right: Chas Tuck, Alf Sargent, Const. R. W. Bradley, E. A. Kilpatrick. Front row: W. Scott, Al Class, Brunton.

# These People Called "Ogema" Home

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## CHAPTER VII

- Eddie Saddler—homesteaded, later owned and operated a tenement house in Ogema. He was a carpenter and an accomplished figure skater.
- Teddie Upcott—homesteaded south of town. Later acted as town policeman. He took pride in looking after the town trees and the cemetery.
- Mrs. Guy—owned and operated a boarding house. Acted as a midwife and nurse.
- Bob Bliss—homesteaded, later ran the livery barn.
- Charlie Holquist—homesteaded. Did painting and plastering.
- J. E. Lloyd—General store business. Superintendent of Sunday School for years and a friend to all.
- Tom Jocelyn—Manager of the town's first water system (team and tank) also had a dray business.
- Joe Dakin—homesteader, drayman and undertaker.
- W. J. Scott—jeweller, served on the town council.
- J. Lemke—homesteader, also did highway construction in the early years with horses.
- Victor Vick—telephone operator and lineman. Played and called for dances.
- Mac Menzies—drayman in town.
- Bill Thomas—homesteader, I.H.C. implement dealer, had a garage and sold cars.
- Bert Haggart—well known lumberyard manager in the early years.
- Charlie Martindale—operated a fruit store and ice cream parlor in the 20's.
- Charlie Little—A lawyer and notary public in the early days.
- Walter Sword—tinsmith, part owner in the King and Sword store, secretary of the Agricultural Society for years.
- Harry King—partner of Sword's in hardware. Curling enthusiast.
- W. P. (Major) Bell—homesteader, one of the town's first J.P.'s.
- Rollie Ford—mechanic, operated a garage, owned one of the first aeroplanes in the country.
- Wilma Thomas—daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Thomas. Won Gov. General's medal in Grade Twelve. Served in World War Two as Chaplain, now Secretary for United Church Missions in Toronto.
- Francis Hyland—lived in Ogema with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Worden as a child. Now an actress for C.B.C.-T.V.
- Joyce Kilpatrick—daughter of the late E. A. Kilpatrick, now a missionary at Dhar United Church Compound, India.
- John Martin—son of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Martin, former municipal secretary of Key West, won Governor General's medal in Grade Twelve.
- Ernie Crispin—blacksmith, implement dealer. Sang in the United Church choir.

THESE PEOPLE CALLED "OGEMA" HOME — 61

Bill Merriam—homesteader, also a painter by trade.

Harry Brogden—owned and operated a meat market. Proud owner of purebred jersey cows.

Rev. McMurtry—United Church minister for years. Well liked family. Four sons in the ministry.

Louie and Joe Sier—owned and operated a general store. Good community workers.

W. Firman—janitor of the school for many years, played in the Ogema band.

Miss Jennie Jones—taught school, also leader of the CGIT group.

Miss Isabel Brandon—high school principal in 20's. Won a scholarship as a French teacher.

Bell and Joe Chan—owned and operated the National Hotel.

Charlie Worden—owned and operated a hardware store.

Donald Fish—lineman and telephone operator.

John Jenson—cabinet maker and carpenter, wonderful horticulturist.

Bill McDonald—disabled in World War One. Manager of Beer store in Ogema.

George and Clarence Fish and Herb Lemke—built a flour mill in the 30's. Clarence operated it as well as the power plant for some time.

Norman and Joe Dunn—owners of coal, gas and oil business. Well respected citizens. Joe gave freely of his time and money towards the girls' ball team. He was "Uncle" to all the youngsters.

Mr. and Mrs. McDonough—Postmaster, always ready to furnish transportation for ball teams, etc. Mrs. McDonough directed local plays.

Mel Bissett—A good and well liked high school teacher in the 30's

Mr. E. A. Kilpatrick—The frequency of this name throughout the book speaks volumes.

Jean Staples—Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Staples, elevator man, won the Governor General's medal in Grade Eight, while she was here and again in Grade Twelve after leaving Ogema.

Louise McGregor—Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. McGregor, won the Gov. General's medal in Grade Twelve.

George Anderson—High school teacher and athletic coach in the 30's. Grade Eight won a medal as the most outstanding class in Saskatchewan under his teaching and that of W. R. Wayne, Principal.

Jack Krueger—Owner of a big threshing outfit in the early days, later a garageman.

Grandma Tuck—A grand old lady with a quick wit, who enjoyed dancing and card games. She lived to the age of 93 years.

Grandma Brock—Lived opposite the school grounds. She was "Grandma" to the youngsters and patched numerous scraped knees or cut fingers.

Mr. and Mrs. Idle—They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Mr. Idle was a horticulturist and taxidermist.

The Kennedys—Large good natured family. Mr. Kennedy was agent for "Rawleigh" products for many years.

Mae (Mead) Blackmore—Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Mead, as a Professor in Thomas Jefferson School, Texas was given a special dedication in the school book as an outstanding teacher.

Kay (Mead) Elliot—Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Mead, wrote and had published "Art Patterns for All Grades," which is used in Sask. schools. Ontario schools are now using a second book written by Kay for Grade Seven.

Ogema can boast of being the home of many more too numerous to mention, who have become ministers, doctors, lawyers, nurses, teachers, etc.

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DO YOU REMEMBER?

The heated stones in the bottom of a cutter or sleigh?

# *Business Places in Ogema Today*

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## CHAPTER VIII

Blacksmith—built in mid 20's by E. Crispin, operated by P. Baran.

Massey-Ferguson Shop—Built in early 30's by E. Crispin, an addition added in 1945, owner is Fritz Frank.

Bures Co-op—Built in 1945 by Albert Mehnke, now operated by Walter Stregger.

Ogema Hotel—Built in 1961, owned by Cocar Bros.

Libby's Store—Built in 1911 by G. G. West, owned by A. Libby and Son.

Post Office—Built in 1953, owned by Doug Taylor.

Hardware—Built in 1910 by Fraser and Hart, owned and operated by Ken Smales.

Lennox Plumbing—built in 1946 by Roy Walsh, owned by Wm. Ward, managed by Dave Bowers.

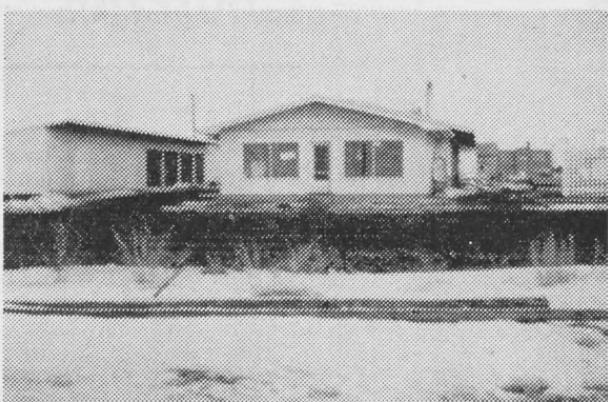
W. J. Smith's Store—Built in 1945 by Clarence Fish, owned and operated by W. J. Smith.

Real Estate Office—Built in 1910 by J. A. Horner, owned and run by J. B. Kilpatrick.



New hotel, 1962

New  
Lumber  
Yard  
1962



Clover Farm Store—Built in 1922 by Harry Brodgen, operated by E. McKague.

Garage and Implements—Built by W. Thomas in early 20's, owned and operated by H. E. Mead.

Municipal Office—Built in 1911, a combined meeting chamber and ladies rest room was added later.

Barber Shop—Built in 1911 by Jack Phillips, now owned by W. Geddes.

Filling Station—Built in 1928 by H. Brodgen, owned by Mrs. F. Herman, operated by Nick Scheier.

Telephone Exchange—Built in 1912 by W. J. Scott, operated by Thelma Geddes.

Agricultural Representative's Office—Present Ag. Rep. Roland Brassard.

Ogema Cafe—Built by E. A. Kilpatrick in 1915, owned and operated by J. Richmond.

Library and Theatre—Built in 1922 by Hugh Townsend, owned by Town and Mrs. Reich.

Ogema Drug Store—Built by Dr. Patterson in 1915, owned and operated by A. Haselman.

Poolroom and Bowling Alley—Built in 1915 by Mr. Miller, owned and operated by John and Glen McKerricker.

Dunn Bros. Oil and Implements—Office part built in 1911, operated by Vic Dunn.

Royal Bank of Canada—Built in 1912, managed by J. Brown.

Beaver Lumber Co.—Built in 1961, managed by Larry Dionne.

Case Implement Shop—Built in 1946, by Ed. Vantyle, managed by Carl Viergutz.

Federal Elevator—Built in 1912, remodelled in 1961, managed by P. Johnson.

Pool Elevator—Built in 1957, managed by P. Talbot.

T.V. Repair Shop—Built in 1946 by J. Jenson, operated by Byron Schleede.

Saskatchewan Power Corporation—Built in 1953, district operator Greg Johnson.

# *Churches*

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## CHAPTER IX

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH HOLY TRINITY, OGEAMA

In May 1910, Rev. W. J. H. McLean conducted the first service in Ogema in a tent. One month later he conducted the second service on the floor of a store that was partly built, with the wide open spaces as the walls. Here regular services were conducted. Holy Trinity Church, Ogema, was built in 1912, and the first service conducted there on Oct. 2, 1912. The Ogema Vicarage and Barn were also built in 1912. Holy Trinity, Ogema was dedicated on Oct. 20, 1916. In 1924 a bell tower was donated by the CPR. In 1928 a parish hall was built on the church property. It was built by local volunteer labor.

In 1961 the interior of the church was redecorated, a new Hammond Electric Organ installed, and new pews put in. Throughout the years our church has had its ups and downs, but is still going strong.

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF DAHINDA

In January, 1908, Rev. Marrise of Yellow Grass conducted the first service, in the home of W. R. Clegg. In 1909 weekly service was held in the shack of E. Martindale by the Rev. A. Horricks



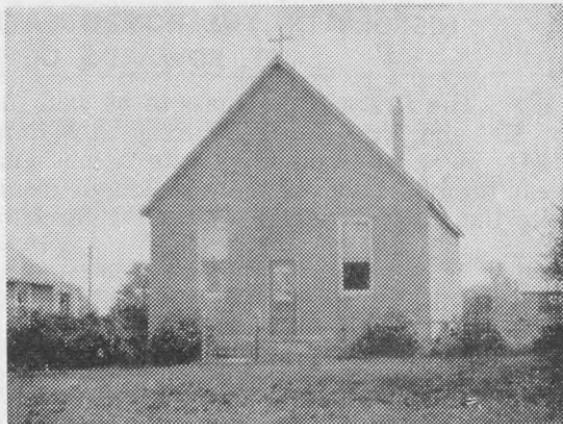
Anglican Church, 1962

Roman

Catholic

Church,

1962



of the Prairie B. H. On May 14, 1910, Rev. J. H. McLean of the Prairie B. H., conducted a meeting of the Parishioners to determine the Parish boundaries and laid plans for a church, choosing the name St. James. In July 1910, the building was started and in 1913 a barn was built. The cemetery was started in 1914. In 1918 a porch and tower was built and dedicated to the glory of God and in memory of the boys in the first World War. St. James was moved into the Hamlet of Dahinda from its rural location in 1951.

### OGEMA UNITED CHURCH

The village of Ogema was started in the summer of 1910, and the first Presbyterian service was held in July of that year, in the store of Sargent and Brunton, situated on the Willow Bunch Trail where Mrs. Myren's residence is now.

The service was arranged by Rev. D. Reid of Khedive and conducted by Mr. Ross McTavish, a student Missionary. Later services were conducted in the store of Mr. Fraser, and occasionally in the restaurant of Mr. Nurnberger.

In 1912 it was decided that Ogema needed a church and one was erected, in the same place as it stands today. Some of the first ministers were: Rev. D. Reid, Mr. T. E. Gamble, Mr. R. McTavish, Rev. S. Marlin, and Rev. Wm. Dewar.

The first meeting of the joint session was held on April 2nd, 1918 and in the early twenties steps were taken to join the Presbyterian and Methodist congregation as a union.

In 1949, a new Manse was built beside the church. The United Church has had its struggles through the years—the fire in 1958 made some very quick changes necessary. A new addition was added, making the United Church a very attractive place of worship.

#### DO YOU REMEMBER?

When the dishcloth froze to the table and the dipper in the water pail?

## HISTORY OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH ST. EDWARDS, OGEMA

The first regular mass to be said in Ogema was in the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Murray in March 1916. From 1916 until 1941, Mass was said in private homes and the Vets. hall. In that year the old school house was bought from Mrs. Lemkie and rebuilt into the present Roman Catholic Church.

### OGEMA CONGREGATION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

The work of Jehovah's Witnesses was promoted by the Rosvold brothers of Viceroy in the early 1920's. In 1956, when the membership was over 70, the congregation was split with Bengough and meetings were held there.

Meetings were held in private homes until the summer of 1954, when they built the Kingdom Hall, three miles west of Ogema on Highway 13 with Mr. George Mattson as presiding Minister.

In 1958, the Van Tyle family moved to Oxbow to extend the Jehovah's Witnesses work into that area. Since then many more have moved to other provinces to live, but our group continues to increase in number.

### OGEMA UNITED CHURCH W.A.

In September of 1925, after Church Union, the ladies of the Ogema church met and formed a church group. The first officers were: president, Mrs. Earl McDonough; vice-president, Mrs. E. Bean; secretary, Mrs. J. E. Lloyd; treasurer, Mrs. J. A. Horner, and organist, Mrs. Rowatt. It was decided to call their Society the Ladies Aid; which it was known as until 1930, when it was changed to the "Women's Association," but this name was not used until 1951, when they joined the Weyburn Presbytery. It is now known as the Women's Association of the United Church of Canada. There are still three of the original members in the district—Mrs. W. Cross, Mrs. J. B. Philips, and Mrs. W. Pool.

The W.A.'s duties are looking after the manse, hymn books, carpets, and gowns for the choir. They raise their money through teas, bazaars and fowl suppers. They have also, in the days gone by, put on some very good plays, which were enjoyed by a full house.

The kitchen in the church basement, which the ladies had furnished, was destroyed by fire so in 1958 a new, larger, and better equipped one was furnished through their efforts.

The W.A. help sponsor the Anna Grafton Gage home in Moose Jaw, the Camp at Carlyle and the Prairie Christian Centre. The organization dissolved last December and joined the United Church Women of Canada.

# Ogema Schools

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## CHAPTER X

Every pioneering community has its problems, and one of the most demanding in this and every community was the problem of education. The first school in Ogema was built in 1911. It was a one-roomed frame building, 16x20, built on block five, which was wholly reserved for future use.

The first school teacher was Murdock Matheson, who came to Ogema in 1911, intending, as he said, to stay only three months, but it turned out that he stayed three years.

School opened July 3rd, 1911, with wages at \$700 a year. In less than one year, it was seen that the small room was inadequate, so in 1911 and 1912 a much larger one-roomed school was built. It no sooner opened, then more space was needed. In 1913 another room was added. By the end of 1913 there were more pupils than could be accommodated, so the School Board rented the Town Hall, which is now Earl Coubrough's home.

In the light of the present day expenditures it is of interest to read in the minutes of August 6th, 1914, "Moved that the secretary write the Town Council, that owing to the present financial stringency, the School Board has voluntarily decided to reduce the estimates of expenditures for the year 1914, to \$3,500.00 instead of the \$4,400.00 that they had previously asked for." The School Board members in 1914, July 2nd were: Mr. Fraser, chairman; Mr.



The Public School

Ennals, Mr. Gamble, Mr. Saunders, Mr. Stevens, and secretary, Mr. Kilpatrick.

On August 1914, at a meeting of the trustee board, it was moved that the grading of the pupils, be left in the hands of the teachers, and also that the pupils not be allowed to attend school until they were six years of age. Beginners, who desire to attend, must commence on the first of May each year. At the December meeting, it was moved, that the board give the sum of \$15.00 for the prizes and treats for the school children. This was to be divided between the three rooms.

Again in 1918, there was a discussion of over-crowded school rooms. Mr. Class was asked to give a rough estimate of the cost of a two-roomed brick building, and also of a two-roomed frame building. A special meeting was held days later and Mr. Class submitted the approximate cost of the frame addition to the present two-roomed school—it would be \$4,800.00. The estimate for the two-roomed brick building was \$8,000.00, so they decided to submit these costs to the rate-payers. There was also an estimate of a four roomed brick building, which was \$14,000.00 from Storey and Van Egmonds.

In June 1918, a vote was taken on what kind of a school should be built. The results of the vote were 35 for a four roomed brick school, six for a frame one, and 12 for no school. A contract was drawn up with McKay Construction Co., and the new school got under way.

In 1919, classes opened in the new school. The old two-roomed school was sold in two parts. The IOOF Lodge bought one part, which is part of their hall today. The other portion is now the Roman Catholic Church.

In the spring of 1928, two more rooms were added to the brick school. This made six rooms, which are in use today. In 1951 a school was moved from North of Milestone and placed by the brick school, to be used for Home Economics and wood work. Here some very nice work has been turned out, under the supervision of various Home Economics teachers, and Ellis Krogsgaard, wood work instructor.

Ogema School District became a part of Milestone School Unit in 1950. In 1954 a new primary school was built, consisting of two class rooms and a play room. This school was opened in 1955, and dedicated to Miss Etta Heron. The guest speaker was Mr. Bolton, and Etta Heron was presented with a bouquet of roses. Miss Heron cut the "Ribbon" and spoke of how much she had enjoyed her teaching years in Ogema and district. Etta Heron served unselfishly for many years in the vicinity. Forty-seven pupils attended the new school the opening year.

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Many of the early homes had earthen floors. These became packed so hard, that it was possible to sweep them lightly with a broom. They had the advantage over wooden floors, in that, they never needed scrubbing and they absorbed grease spots like a sponge.

In 1959, with so many country schools being closed, and students coming to Ogema by bus, the school rooms were again overcrowded. So by 1960 a new high school was under construction. When the walls were nearly completed, a strong wind arose, and in spite of the efforts of the men in putting up props and braces, the walls collapsed. The workers built a wind break and started over. Due to this delay, the Legion Hall was rented and used as a school, until the completion of the new building. It was ready for opening of school in September of 1961.

The opening of the new Ogema High School was held on October 11, 1961. Mr Waugh of the Provincial Department of Education was guest speaker at a very impressive ceremony. Ogema Band played "O Canada" and several other selections. Rev. d'Onofrio was chairman, while Rev. Wolfe gave invocation. The late Mr. Kilpatrick cut the ribbon. Ogema and District residents as well as the students of Grades 8 to 12, who attend this modern new school, are very proud of it. It has five class rooms as well as a fully equipped lab and library, staff room, principal's office, and a large auditorium. There are seven buses to bring rural children to the Ogema schools.

Our School Board members of today are Dr. Harry Struthers, chairman; Mrs. Frances Johnson, secretary; Mrs. Ruth McKague, Fritz Frank, Mrs. Donella McKague, Floyd Mooney, Harold Cross, Andy Myren, Ralph Dunn, and Carmen Dunn.

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A pioneer family became so discouraged with homesteading, that they just walked out of their shack, leaving everything, even food and dishes from a meal, on the table.

In early years, mushrooms grew so thickly in the new breaking that many acres of flax were ruined. Ernie Bow, a man with an eye for a dollar, picked large quantities of them, brought them to town and sold them to the cafes. Other Pioneers cleaned and dried them for future use.

In 1913 the town bell was rung 4 times a day. The bell-ringer was paid twenty-five cents per day.

#### DO YOU REMEMBER?

The black pure silk hose the ladies wore and how one woman tried to camouflage the hole in her last pair, by daubing her leg with shoe polish, where the hole was?

# *History of the Rural School*

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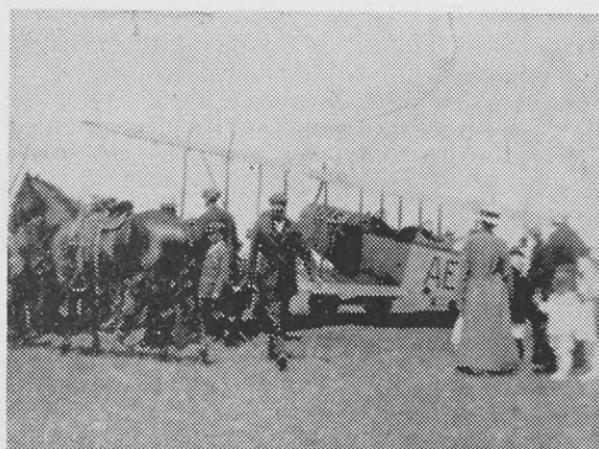
## CHAPTER XI

The rural, or the one-roomed school, is virtually a thing of the past, but our history would not be complete without mention of it. To some, this structure was akin to a torture chamber, but the majority of pioneer children were hungry for knowledge and now, remember their particular school, with a feeling of nostalgia.

When a school was built, it became the centre of community activities. Church services, Sunday School, picnics, card parties, dances, elections, voting, and other meetings were held in it, to say nothing of the annual Christmas concert.

Most of the schools were built at one end of a fenced-in, two acre lot. A red, four-stall barn and two well-identified out-buildings, one at either end of the barn, completed the accommodations. Behind this barn, many a boy tried his first cigarette of tea leaves or pilfered tobacco.

The far end of the school yard was used as a play area. Sometimes there was a swing and a teeter-tawter, but regardless of other play ground equipment, there was the invariable base-ball diamond, a four cornered deep worn rut, in the centre of a bare and hard-packed field. Here the children learned good sportsmanship and tried out their pitching arm, under the watchful eye of the teacher.



First  
Plane  
to Land  
in  
Ogema

In those days, children, as a rule, walked to school in fine weather, rode or drove at other times. It was not uncommon for children to attend from a distance of 4 or 5 miles.

The school pony was usually a quiet, well-mannered beast, of respectable years. Fortunate were those who had one, still young in spirit. They were the envy of their school mates. But even the staid old plugs could not always be trusted, as youngsters often found out. However, the occasional runaway or bucking display was exciting. It gave the animal's owner a certain prestige and provided a topic of conversation for weeks.

Horse races too, were common, particularly in the mornings. The winner always getting the best stall in the barn.

The schools, the earlier ones, were modest buildings. They were built with a peaked roof, topped with a bell-tower and flagpole. They had a door in one end with windows on opposite sides.

The door opened into a combination cloak-room and washroom, with hooks for coats and shelves for dinner pails. In winter, the lunches, left here, would freeze solid and overshoes be so cold, that tender little "pinkies" often froze between school and home.

The cloak room led, by two doors, into the class room. The class room contained a huge pot-bellied heater at the back, teacher's desk at the front, with a sea of double desks in between. While over the whole floated a peculiar and unforgettable odor, of mingled chalk dust and lunch pails.

The stove with its insatiable appetite for coal, drew the children, like a magnet, on cold days. At recesses and noon they clustered around it, periodically turning back to front, as one side became cold and the other hot. Many an understanding mother placed discreet patches over the burned posterior sections of youngster's clothing. Sometimes the odd 22 shell found its way into the stove. The planned explosion, creating a little diversion, could always be blamed on some blasting powder left in the coal.

The desks were built for two pupils. They had fancy iron grill work on either side, a long shelf below and an ink well in the centre. Not only was the ink well used by its owners, but frequently by the two in front as well, resulting in numerous ink stains on desks, floor, and youngsters. The inkwell was a useful piece of equipment. Besides its original use, it often held the ends of little girls' pigtailed, forbidden wads of gum, spit balls, or "chaws" of tobacco of would-be men. The shelf below the desk was intended to hold the pupils' books, pencil box and slate, but frequently held such other objects as gopher tails, snares, sling shots, small bottles of water and dirty rags. The rags and water were used for cleaning slates. Kept for any length of time, water and rags acquired an odor similar to that of rotten eggs. Children, without these items slyly spat on the slate and wiped it clean with their sleeve.

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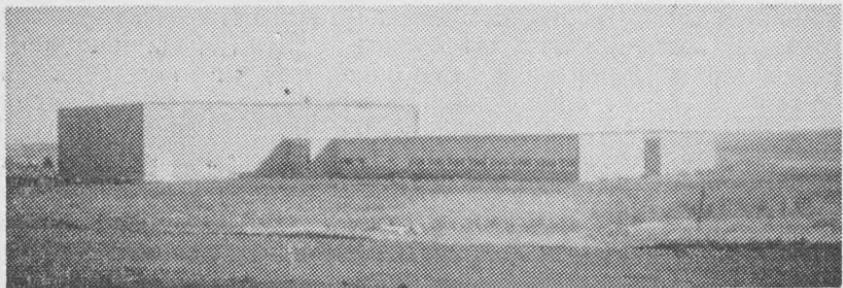
#### DO YOU REMEMBER?

The flatirons, wrapped in newspaper or towels, taken to bed with you on a winter night?

The teacher's desk of today has changed little over the years. Then as now, it was piled high with books. The front and sides were closed in, nearly to the floor. The right hand side had a series of drawers, while the left side was left open for knee space. This space often doubled as a correction coop for bad little boys. The desk was a sacred piece of furniture. Few pupils saw the contents of its many drawers, but all knew that somewhere in its mysterious depths, was kept the teacher's strap.

This awesome thing was spoken of, in whispers, by the children. None of them were overly anxious to see it, as seeing would probably mean feeling as well. Wise youths cautioned their younger companions, to wrap a hair around their hand, to avoid blisters should disaster strike.

The teacher was usually a brave young girl of adventurous spirit, who boarded with one of the district families. The young men of the neighborhood vied with each other for her favors and more



Ogema High School, 1962

often than not she remained, at the end of the term, to share the shack and future of one of them. For their efforts, the teachers were paid an average of \$650 a year. Out of this fine sum of money they paid their board, bought their own text books or desk copies, and their clothes, (due to public pressure and opinion they were forced to dress better than the average person). Often the teacher's did the janitor work as well—receiving from \$15 to \$25 per annum for this.

Except for the usual six weeks vacation, taken during the summer or winter months (depending upon the wishes of the ratepayers) holidays were few. A minimum of 210 teaching days was the requirement for the grant. This often called for a few Saturday sessions to make up the needed number of days.

Over the years, the powers that be, decreed a few changes, thus the modern cottage-type schools were built and one or two roomed teacherages added to the grounds.

Ole Olson, an early settler in the Mundie S.D. first lived in a dugout. His neighbors recall how Ole planted potatoes in gopher mounds and hauled stones in a wheel-barrow.

Bell towers and flag-poles on the roof were found to be unsatisfactory—ropes became tangled or broken and boys were too eager to risk their necks untangling or repairing them. The towers were eliminated and the flag-pole moved to the ground in front of the school.

They discovered cross-lighting was injurious to the eyes, so new schools were built with windows on just one side and the old ones were remodelled.

Cloak rooms were divided and washrooms with water coolers and basins added—the pupils supplied their own cup and towel.

New single desks replaced the double ones—ending a lot of “double” talk.

A four-foot high jacket, complete with cold air register, built into an outside wall, was erected around the stove. If one were bold enough and timed it properly, one could hear punishment being meted out by listening at this register from the outside.

Due to the fact that many children had been forced to stay at the school over night by sudden blizzards, the outside coal bin was replaced, by one built on at the back of the school and could be reached by an inside door.

Many of the more isolated schools were equipped with small kitchen units, boasting a coal-oil stove, dishes and a few utensils. Staple supplies of canned goods and soda crackers were kept on hand for emergencies.

This equipment led to the serving of a hot dish at noon, to supplement the frozen lunches. The mothers took turns supplying soup, stew, hash, etc. Both teacher and pupils enjoyed the hot lunches and each day brought the surprise of a different dish. One family brought eggs, to be soft-boiled which ended up like Easter eggs. Another family brought a stew so strong with garlic that all the children were forced to eat it in self defence. It was fun and the pupils didn't mind taking a turn at serving the lunch, washing dishes, or sweeping up crumbs.

The school days were mostly happy ones. The children were like a large family and there was a close relationship between pupils and teacher, not to be found in the schools of today. Perhaps it was because they shared their pleasures and hardships.

One could write a book on the subject of rural schools, but space being limited, this is only a brief but true picture of a phase of life rapidly disappearing. Reality is gradually being replaced by memories and all too soon, nothing will be left of the old schools, but a paragraph or page in a history book.

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In the winter of 1906-07, Horace David undertook a trip to Weyburn for coal. The snow was so deep, the trip took him 9½ days. He returned to find that his partner had used the last of their coal supply as well as the wooden parts of some machinery.

# Rural Schools

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## CHAPTER XII

### EDGEWORTH SCHOOL

The first school was in 1924 with 24 pupils and Miss Lila Newman as teacher. This school was the centre of community activities of Edgeworth until 1955 when the children were taken to Dahinda by bus. The school still stands and is used as a social centre.

### GLASNEVIN SCHOOL

Glasnevin school was built in 1913 and opened in 1914 with Miss Franks as teacher. The trustees were A. Hansen, John Mooney, James Boelin, and R. J. Whiting as Sec.-Treas. In 1918 the school grounds were fenced and trees planted.

In March 1919 it was decided to close the school as there were only six school age pupils in the district and in July of that year wind demolished the barn.

From 1919-1926 the school children were transported to Mount Joy, Wright, and Thorndyke.

Glasnevin school was reopened in March 1926 and closed in June 1959 when the children went to Bengough and Ogema by bus.

The school still stands on the old site and is in good repair.

### BURES SCHOOL

The lumber for Bures School was hauled from Forward by team and wagon. The school opened in Oct. 1911 with Mr. E. Kilpatrick as the first teacher and 24 pupils. The trustees were W. L. Linton, Dick Harden, and C. P. Ennals (Sec-Treas.). This school was closed in 1957 and the building was sold to Ken and Len Iverson. It was torn down and rebuilt into granaries.

### THORNDYKE SCHOOL

Thorndyke school was started in 1910 and completed in April 1911 with Mrs. Norah Gosling in charge of 11 pupils. The enrolment in later years increased to over 40 pupils in attendance at times. This school has truly been a community centre. In 1961 Thorndyke school completed its fiftieth consecutive year in operation. The occasion was commemorated by a 50th Anniversary celebration held at the school. Over 300 persons signed the register, many of whom were former pupils, teachers, and residents of the district. The school is in its 51st year of operation with 11 pupils.



Ball team, 1914. Back row: Howard Ott, Nine Westley, Roy Rose, Ed. Barnes, Bill Coubrough, Harry Roleston. Front row: Percy Tripp, Art George, Fred LaFraugh, Ed. Gurnsey, Dell Coubrough.

### **DAHINDA SCHOOL**

Dahinda school was built in 1911 and opened in June 1911 with Miss Margaret Mitchell as teacher. This building was not in the hamlet of Dahinda. In 1955 a centralized school was built and children from Adell, Capitola, Dahinda, Edgeworth, and Fell schools were brought in by bus. On the old school site no mark remains. The school was moved to Dahinda and remodelled into a teacher's residence.

### **FELL SCHOOL**

Fell school was built in 1913 and opened April 1914 with J. H. Bywater in charge of 14 pupils. Chas. Lloyd was the first Sec.-Treas. and Chas Morrow a trustee.

The school closed in 1955 and the children were taken to Dahinda by bus. The buildings were sold and torn down. Only the fence remains.

### **EGYPT VALLEY SCHOOL**

Egypt Valley School was built in 1912. Opened in 1913. Miss Wilfred was the first teacher. The school was moved a few miles north in the early twenties. It burned down in the winter of 1937

and rebuilt in the spring of 1938. L. Oliver was the first teacher then. No books were left after the fire, so there is no information as to how many children first attended the school.

### ADELL SCHOOL

Adell School was built in 1913 and opened with seven pupils. The first teacher was Mr. Clarence Stone. Adell School had Mr. James Coubrough, Mr. Chas. McMullen, and Mr. Robert Longley for the first trustees. The school ran until 1955, June, when the pupils were taken by bus to Dahinda. Adell School still stands on the old site and every summer the Adell Goodwill Club have their strawberry festival there.

### MUNDIE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mundie School was built in 1919, on the school site bought from F. Holm. The first trustees were: Mr. A. J. Dawe, Mr. Bert Ried, Mr. H. L. David (chairman). The school opened March 15, 1920, with Miss Jean Dodd as teacher, with a salary of \$5.00 per day. The school closed April second, 1942. The building was moved east to become the home of the Keith Webb family.

### ALBERT SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 878

Albert Springs School was built in 1912 and opened in March 1913, with 20 pupils. The first teacher was Mr. McLean. Mr. J. Gauley, Mr. S. Ells, and Mr. O. Johnson were the first trustees. Mr. Gauley was chairman and Mr. Ells secretary-treasurer. This school was open until June, 1951, when the children started going to Ogema by bus. In 1960 the old school was purchased by Mr. Alfred Johnson Jr. and torn down to be rebuilt into a new house.

### DERGANAGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Derganagh School was built in 1915 and opened in 1916 with twelve pupils. The first school board were: Mr. Amos Williams, chairman, Mr. Chris Mehnke, trustee, and Mr. Henry Mehnke, secretary-treasurer. The school was named Derganagh by Mr. Robert Anderson—after a county in Ireland. The school was open until 1951, June, when the pupils were taken to Ogema by bus. The school still stands on its old site and is in good repair.

### MEDORA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Medora was built in 1911 and opened in February 1912, with Mr. Smithers as teacher and 19 pupils were registered. W. H. White, W. Whittle, and T. Stueck were the first school board.

The school closed in June 1959 and the building was sold to Alton Johnson.

### **LYONS SCHOOL**

The lumber for Lyons School was bought in the fall of 1913. The building was completed in the fall of 1914 and opened with 7 pupils—teacher Miss Mary Murray. Mr. A. McKague, Mr. White, and Mr. Campbell were the first trustees.

The school was closed in June 1942 for lack of pupils. The building was sold to Harold Kane and moved to Bengough to become the Kane home.

### **WEST LAWN SCHOOL DISTRICT**

On April 27, 1914, West Lawn School opened with 10 pupils in the building which later became the barn, with H. McAdie as teacher. In July 1915, the school house was completed and classes began, with Marion Crocker as teacher. The trustees were Wm. Bromley, chairman; J. Johnson, Wm. Hanna, Archie McKerricher, Secretary-Treasurer.

The school had been in continuous operation since it opened, but was forced to close June 30, 1946 for lack of pupils. The barn was sold to Gerald McKerricher and the school house is still on its old site.

### **MOUNT JOY DISTRICT**

In 1912 the pioneers decided to build a stone school. The men hauled the rock from the homesteads while E. N. Class of Ogema drew up plans for the building. A stone mason with the help of Jim Cousins and 2 brothers did most of the stone cutting. In Oct. 1912 school opened with 24 pupils and Miss A. E. Gimby as teacher. The trustees were Lew Wiles as chairman, Fred La-Fraugh as secretary, and Ted Barnes as trustee.

In 1959 the school closed and the children went to Ogema by bus. The school still stands and is in good repair. In the winter months the Social Club have social evenings there every two weeks.



Bures School

One of the

earlier models.

### LINDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Linden School was built in 1909 by Chet Lynds. It was named by Ed. Walker, who acted as Secretary for many years. Miss Etta Heron was the first teacher, and two of the trustees were, Frank Mellon, and Jim Rainnie. The school was closed in 1937 due to lack of students, then re-opened in Sept. of 1947, and closed again in June of '53, the children being taken by bus to Ogema School.

The building was sold to John Nuernberger and moved to Glasnevin to be used as a warehouse. Later it was purchased by Pat Talbot and moved again, this time to Ogema to become the Talbot home.

### KEY WEST SCHOOL

Key West school was built in 1908 and opened with about seven pupils under Mr. Percy Tripp, who was also a local home-steader. Mr. Bacon, Mr. C. Bush, and Mr. B. Grainger were the trustees with Mr. G. Parry, secretary-treasurer.

The school operated for 50 years before the children were taken to Ogema by bus. The school still stands, modern and in good repair as a community centre.

### QUERRIN SCHOOL

Querrin School was built in 1917 and opened in March 1918 with Mr. Sherrer as teacher. The trustees were: Lloyd Scotch, Hawey Austin, Robin Gray, and L. Quinn as secretary-treasurer.

In 1927 the school burned down and was re-built late in 1928. School carried on until only four pupils remained and it was closed in 1954. The school was moved to Avonlea in 1957 by the Milestone School Unit.



The skating rink after the cyclone, 1932.

#### DO YOU REMEMBER?

Ray Rose running his steam engine over someone's buggy?

# **Organizations**

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## **C H A P T E R X I I I**

### **SUNNY SOUTH HOMEMAKERS**

The first meeting was held on Nov. 21, 1939. The first officers were: Miss Margaret Benallack, president; Mrs. Jean Eden, secretary; Mrs. Anne Farr, treasurer.

The club was named by the late Mrs. A. McKague. The club is neither religious nor political in basis.

During the war they did knitting and sewing for the Red Cross, and sent boxes to the Ogema boys overseas. Later years, they sent girls to the Farm Girls' camp at Swift Current, and delegates to the Homemakers' Convention at Saskatoon.

One enjoyment that has been carried through the years is the annual Pot Luck Dinner held in November, for the members and their families.

### **GLASNEVIN HOMEMAKERS CLUB**

The organization of the Glasnevin Homemakers Club was held at the home of Mrs. Carl Johnson, November 27, 1939.

Mrs. Benson Grainger and Mrs. Jim Burns were present to organize the club.

The charter members of Glasnevin H.C. are Hulda Cox, Irene Mehnke, Bessie Outtrim, Bina Johnson and Janet Murray.

The first officers of the club were: president, Hulda Cox; vice president, Bessie Outtrim; treasurer, Bina Johnson.

On the fifteenth Anniversary of the club, life membership pins were given to Hulda Cox and Irene Mehnke. Just prior to the anniversary, Mrs. Cox moved to Big Beaver. Mrs. Mehnke is still with us and has been an active member of the club for over twenty years.

President and Secretary—1939  
Hulda Cox      Bessie Outtrim  
President and Secretary—1962  
Edna Wiles      Alma McDermott

### **OGEMA LODGE I.O.O.F. No. 83**

**1911 — 1962**

The Ogema Lodge No. 83 Independent Order of Oddfellows was instituted in the fall of 1911 and was issued a Charter in the year 1912 by the Sovereign Grand Lodge IOOF of North America, with the following Brothers as Charter members, Viz., W. P. Ball, R. J. Grant, J. A. Horner, J. S. McKinnon, J. P. Burns and Barny Cameron.

The first initiation of candidates took place on November 21, 1911, in a room in the Baker hall on Railway Ave., where 18 members and 28 visitors signed the register. After a time the meeting was changed to a room on the upper floor of Moffat and Robinson Building on Main Street. Again after a few years the meeting place was changed to a room in the Sadler Building (formerly the Ogema Hotel).

During these years the Lodge members were considering having a hall of their own. In the meantime the Ogema School Board, having built a new school, were offering the old school for sale, and in approaching the IOOF Lodge re the sale of same, an agreement was arrived at whereby the IOOF Lodge purchased the north portion of the said school building and the Lodge having purchased a town lot on Baldwin St, from John Vail, the building was moved onto said lot and became known as the Odd Fellows Hall. Later on in the year of 1922 the space in this building was found inadequate so the building was raised, a full sized basement was put in with concere walls etc. A piece was then built on the east end, also a piece on the west end which constitutes the building as it is today.

The Lodge has had ups and downs during these many years attained a membership of 110. In 1961 they celebrated their 50th Anniversary.

The Lodge has ever been interested in the activities of the town and district and the welfare of the citizens and are forever steadfast in the principles of the Order—Friendship, Love and Truth.

## ADELL GOODWILL CLUB

On May 3, 1952, the Adell Homemakers held a meeting to decide how they could better serve their community. The decision was to drop the Homemakers and form a local group, with each member to suggest a name by the June meeting. The "Adell Good-will Club" was suggested by the late Mrs. Roberta Longley, it was passed by the other members, and so came into being.

The Club, at the present, has eleven active members. A gift is sent to the local residents, that are ill in the hospital, with cards to those sick at home. Each year a donation is sent to the T.B. Fund; Salvation Army; March of Dimes; C.H.A.B. Christmas Fund; Ogema Agriculture Society; Memorial Wreath; and they donated \$200. to the local hospital. They raise their funds by tea and bake sales every November, and by making quilts, which are raffled off at their annual picnic, held every summer. Red Cross sewing is another of their undertakings, with an average of 24 garments a month being completed and sent into headquarters.

## THE OGEMA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Ogema Agricultural Society was chartered on January 8, 1914, with T. E. Gamble as president and C. P. Ennals as secretary. The first meeting was held in the "Old Vet's Hall," situated where Earl Coubrrough's now reside. At this time they had four speakers from the Department of Agriculture of Saskatchewan. Mr. Clarence Heron apparently was the first farmer to make an appearance at this meeting, after bringing in a load of wheat to town. Some of the meetings following this one were held in the Key West School, King & Sword's store, and the Hotel. They always had a crowd of interested people.

Due to the war, there was no activity in the Society, until the year 1918, when R. R. Fillion was secretary. He had just started an Insurance office in Ogema. But at this time there was no president named. In 1919, Mr. H. Hartley became president and W. A. Shearer (V.S.), was secretary. In 1920 D. B. Robertson became secretary and continued until 1924. At this time they had standing crop competitions, summerfallow and seed drilling competitions, garden judging and others which paid good prizes. Some of the members received as much as \$150 in prize money, which was given back to the Society for building the rink and the grandstand. In all, it amounted to \$1,000. This was the "D. B.'s Pet Promotion."

In 1924, Mr. W. J. Sword was elected secretary and continued as such until 1944. A great deal of credit goes to him for the condition the Society is in today. He was a faithful and loyal member and worker for the organization. He reports that he enjoyed all the years he spent in the Society. Secretaries following W. J. Sword were: Edgar Bush, Mrs. Huldah Cox, D. H. Wilde, Mrs. Louise Grainger, Mrs. Alice Warren and Mrs. Doris Viergutz.

Roy Bacon held the presidency from 1924 to 1930 when H. E. Mead was elected and continued until 1943. He was followed by Roy Smith, Harvey Mellon, A. B. Grainger, James Eden, Edgar Bush, Morley Hudson, B. C. Dicken, L. E. Dunn, Cec. Grainger, Ken Wiles, and to our present president, Cec. Stewart.

The fairs in the early days lasted for two days and horses seemed to be the main attraction. Horse sales were conducted by Mr. McGregor. Some of the exhibitors in Clyde horses were Tom Richardson, J. K. Bryce, James Kinnell, J. Burns, Adam Patterson from Dummer, Earl Farr. In General Purpose horses, George Redford, Art George, Art McKague, Wm. Lyons, Bert Dunn from Pangman, Lew Wiles, Gordon George, Norman and Joe Dunn, Roy Bacon, Bert Dicken, Tom Clark and others. Bert and Frank Mead, Lew Wiles, and Roy Bacon were four of the main exhibitors in shorthorn cattle.

Clarence Heron was a top exhibitor in swine, grains and grasses. Andy Prentice was a good exhibitor of cattle and other entries. Mr. Bill Taylor was the director for poultry for a number of years.

They also featured horse races, in which horses from Brandon, Manitoba, and other points were entered. It seems that Frank Mead entered his horse one year and won over them.

During the 1920's and 30's the Society seemed to have the largest amount of livestock on display at anytime since they were organized, until the 4-H Clubs became the main display.

In 1926, the trees were bought to plant around the fair grounds and in 1932, the rink blew down and was rebuilt the same year, replaced for around \$1,500.

The boy's camps seemed to be a highlight in the early days, when especially, it is recalled, that in 1928, K. Wiles, A. George, W. Grainger, H. Cross and T. Parry were the boys sent to Regina camp. Also the same year J. Harbourne, H. Martindale, A. Cross, W. Burns and C. Ennals went to Saskatoon Camp.

When the dry thirties came along, with the winds blowing and the Russian thistle rolling across the prairies, many people moved away, but those who remained continued work in the Society by having simple sports days.

Other willing workers in the Society who deserve mentioning are Harry King, George Fish, Harry Brogden noted for his Jersey cattle in the fairs, Wm. Cross, G. H. Dickin, Mr. Bebensee, J. K. Kerster, Mr. Kilpatrick, Mr. Haselhan, Albert Eade, Jack Mooney, S. Husdon, L. Pratt, Mr. Townsend, Harvey Dunn, George Parry, and many, many others.

Many of the women from the town and country, then as now, were big exhibitors and we have as many as 1600 exhibits shown at our summer Fair today.

The Baby Beef inter-club competition, fat stock show and sale in June and the Summer Fair in July, continues to be the annual activity of our Society working with the Extension Department, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon.

### THE OGEMA 4-H BEEF CLUB

The Ogema 4-H Beef Club was organized in 1949 under Ag. Rep. D. H. Wilde, with George Bacon as leader. The Ogema Wheat Pool committee sponsored the club and have continued to sponsor it ever since.

The Club started with 11 members having Bill Brock as president and Eyvonne Eden as secretary. Since the club was formed 13 years ago, 91 local young people have joined.

Club activities have been varied and numerous, but the two most important events each year are Club Tours and Farm Camps. There have been 10 tours to various points in Saskatchewan, and two tours to Minot State Fair, one of these by chartered train.

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One pioneer shot a prairie-chicken out of season, and was busy plucking it, when a mountie rode up. Guiltily the pioneer tossed the chicken under his bed, forgetting the feathers scattered around. However, the mountie was looking for bigger game.

Great achievements have been attained at farm camps, the boys having won a total of eight gold watches and high aggregate teams at Estevan, Weyburn and Moose Jaw "B" camps. On the "A" circuit greater success, under stiffer competition has been attained. In 1955 at Saskatoon, Ogema Beef Club Team placed second high aggregate team and the following year placed first at Regina, bringing home a total of 29 out of 32 prizes offered. This winning team consisted of Grant Clark, Mike and Eddy Schenher, Gordon Wiles, and Keith Warren.

In 1959, Cecil Grainger became Co-Leader of the Club. In 1960, the Club placed third in a provincial competition on preparing and giving a radio programme. The same year a Thematic display on Farm Management was entered in the Regina Exhibition, placing first in the provincial competition and third in a competition for the three prairie provinces.

These and many other achievements have been attained only because of the great co-operation of the parents and community.

We thank you for that support.

### KEY WEST COMMUNITY CIRCLE

When the Key West district was first settled in 1906, and when there were enough women to start a group, the United Church Women's Organization was begun. Church and Sunday School were held in Key West School every Sunday. Among the first members were: The Hudsons, Bacons, Parrys, Burns, Pratts, Fishes Bryces, Graingers, Herons and Dunns. Later, the Homemakers Club and the Grain Growers Association was formed. In 1942 as suggested they amalgamated the various groups into one community group and called themselves the "Key West Circle".

In 1958 we sponsored a Golden Jubilee Celebration of the Key West District, with nearly all the old timers present. The present club still meets once a month in the unused Key West School house.

### OGEMA RECREATION CLUB

For a couple of years the town boasted a Hockey Association. Mr. Baldwin, principal of the High School, thought that the adult and youth of Ogema would benefit more by having a Recreation Club, rather than just a Hockey Association. On April 8, 1958, the Recreation Club was formed with Mr. Baldwin as secretary-treasurer and Greg Johnson as president.

Each organization was asked to send a representative, who would keep their club informed of all activities and would have full power to vote at Recreation meetings.

The club takes care of the skating rink in winter. It has organized hockey as well as figure skating and broom ball. In summer it sponsors baseball for the boys and softball for the girls. It has a golf course and is interested in a small section of lake, where picnics and swimming could be enjoyed by all.

## OGEMA HIGH SCHOOL SOCIETY

The Ogema Literary Society was formed around 1919, the year high school started in Ogema. It stopped for a few years, but started again, and lasted until about 1959. The society was an organization run by the students and guided by a constitution. They prided themselves on a school paper known by the unique title of "Pieces of Eight, Nine, Ten, Eleven, Twelve."

For some years an alumni night was held in July, which was very much enjoyed. Short plays were held every year, and have been carried on every year since, because of the keen interest of the public.

The student Council was formed in 1959. A Drama Debating Society was formed in 1959 and proved to be very successful, but it did not continue.

The Student Council is very much like the Literary Society, giving all the students an opportunity to help organize the activities of the school.

We can hope that there will always be a student body in our Ogema High School.

## THE A.O.T.S.

In the fall of 1954, Rev. R. Swan took a car load of men to Radville to hear Mr. D. R. Pool of British Columbia give an inspiring address on the need for, and the purpose of, men's clubs within the church.

On November 9, 1954, the United Church AOTS Men's Club was organized with a membership of 40. Mr. Hill of Moose Jaw installed the following officers: president, Roy Grier; vice-president, John Tondevold; secretary, Allan Bray; treasurer, Ron Perry.

The name AOTS comes from Jesus' words, "I come among you **As One That Serves.**"

The aims are threefold.

1st.—to deepen the spiritual life of men,

2nd.—to promote Christian fellowship,

3rd—to render Christian service.

In a small attempt to carry out these aims, the club has made contributions to the United Church camp at Carlyle, and to the Prairie Christian Training Centre at Fort Qu'Appelle. A garage was built for the minister's car and the members of the club have arranged for services during the minister's holidays, for ushering throughout the year, and when required operate a taxi service to and from church.

The present officers are: president, Elwood McKague; vice-president, Roy Grier; secretary-treasurer, Brian Kilpatrick.

### DO YOU REMEMBER?

The mosquitoes so thick that farmers had to make smudges, to give their livestock a little protection?



Soccer team, 1926. Back row: E. A. Kilpatrick, George Anderson, Ted Stephenson, Bert Mead, George Garbut, George Hayfield. Seated: Bill Taylor, Bill Knight, Don Fish, Rev. Handcock, Ernie Hartley.

### EASTERN STAR

Patrice Chapter was instituted on March 12, 1930, with 28 members. Seven ladies had gone to Weyburn in 1928 to take the degree making it possible for a chapter to be instituted. Our first Corps of head officers were: Mrs. R. C. Smith, W.M.; Mr. R. C. Smith, W.P.; Mrs. McDonough, Assoc. M.; Mr. E. McDonough Assoc. P; Miss D. Ennal, secretary. As of today there still remain 46 members, of which 8 are charter members.

The lessons of the Order are taken from the Book of Books, teaching Fidelity, Constancy, Loyalty, Faith, Love and Justice. Thus we dedicate ourselves to these virtues promoting peace. We work for the "Home for the Aged" fund and the International Peace Gardens which is bounded on the north by Manitoba and on the south by North Dakota. This is to celebrate the Peace between these two countries. The Estral fund is to help assist and train religious workers.

As Women's heart beats most responsive to any noble deed  
 She hears the widow and the orphans in their piteous cry of need  
 And thro' the Eastern Star she helps wherever she can  
 To do her share, prompting the brotherhood of man  
 In its labyrinth of light it sheds luxurious rays  
 That help you on life's journey in all its devious ways.

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In the days of horse power many farmers got raw broncs from the ranches to the south. These they either bought or broke and used for a year for their trouble—returning them for a new lot the next spring. Thus many farmers had their own private rodeo every spring and fall.

**OMEGA REBEKAH LODGE NO. 27**

In 1913 we are told,  
 The Ogema I.O.O.F. did unfold,  
 To Oddfellowship a New Degree,  
 To add to its fraternity.  
 Many of our Brothers thought it vain  
 This new order to obtain,  
 But some stood firm and would not retrace,  
 Therefore, they obtained a place  
 In Ogema I.O.O.F. for women, who  
 Were interested in the Order true.

The Rebekah Lodge was instituted on January 20th, 1914. Twenty-three members signed the register. These are the names of the Rebekah Charter Members: J. H. Ross, Mrs. J. C. Pratt, G. E. Pettigrew, J. B. Phillips, Etta Strothers, C. S. Ruthven, Joe Smith, Merton Smith, Hugh Darraugh, E. E. Jewel, Henery Reid, T. E. Gamble, Mrs. T. E. Gamble, Emma Horn, J. T. Campbell, Dora Nurnberger, Rosabelle Bradley, R. W. Bradley, Mrs. Edna Edgar, Mrs. John Pratt, Mrs. H. J. Darraugh, and A. S. Rubin.

Of these Mrs. T. E. Gamble, still very active in Lodge work, is the only remaining charter member of Omega Lodge.

The first officers were: Noble Grand, Sister Beebe; Recording Secretary, Brother T. E. Gamble.

These were trying days for those who wanted to help and serve and be a part of this great fraternity.

During the first world war many of our brothers were called into service, and many of the Sisters went with their husbands. The men left, had much more to do, so the women pitched in and did their share. In addition to Lodge work a great deal of Red Cross work was done.

The Omega Lodge has been in operation for forty-eight consecutive years and at present has a membership of seventy-three.

Friendship, Love, and Truth  
 Who could ask for more.

**OGEMA CURLING CLUB**

The Ogema Curling Club started tossing rocks in the winter of 1912, in a metal covered rink, on the east side of town. In 1913, the building blew down and was rebuilt the same year. About 1919, financial difficulties forced the sale of the rink.

It was torn down and moved to Limerick. In 1921, the present rink was built with two sheets of ice, and an open air skating rink. Several years later a third sheet of ice was added to the curling rink, and a roof put on the skating rink.

In 1932, the skating rink blew down, and the present rink was built. The Ogema Curling Club have had the honor of having a representative on the Sask. Curling Association since 1947 in the person of Mr. H. E. Mead, who was the president of the Association in 1957-58. Many of the old curlers have tossed their last rocks, but some of those shots will be talked about forever.

### MASONIC LODGE

Ogema Lodge No. 120, A.F. and A.M., G.R.S., held their first meeting in a hall above Moffet and Robertson's store, December 27th, 1915. Charter was granted by the Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan on June 21st, 1916.

The charter members were as follows: D. B. Robertson, A. Y. Kinnaird, R. C. Smith, J. B. Paterson, A. H. O'Keefe, G. McKenzie M. M. Smith, H. G. W. Reed, Chas. A. Bush, Tho. Clark, Robert Anderson and S. G. Dawson.

Starting July 15, 1924, the meetings were held in the new Oddfellow's Hall. In January, 1927, two lots were purchased from the Union Church Board and in May, 1928, a tender by Albert Mehnke was accepted to build a Masonic Temple.

The building was completed in 1928 and dedicated August 9th, 1929 by Grand Master J. O. Clark of Govan.

The temple was mortgaged to pay the construction costs and on June 10, 1946, the mortgage was paid off and burned. This building is still in use and is situated across the corner from the United church.

### MOUNT JOY COMMUNITY CLUB

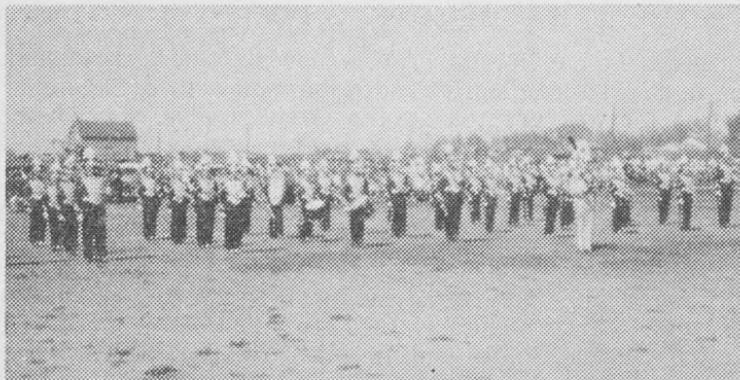
In the early days the wives of the Grain Growers served oyster suppers in the school. Then in the early 20's a Ladies' Aid was formed under Mrs. Cousins to support the church. In 1928 Mrs. Kinnell was the secretary. When the church services discontinued in the 30's, the group seems to have no record. Socials were held in the school. It seems that they re-organized as the Red Cross through the war years 1939 - 45 with Mrs. Gordon George as president and Mrs. Dave Kinnell as secretary. Quilting and knitting were their main interest. At the cessation of hostilities they became the Community Club they are now. Mrs. J. Olson, Mrs. J. Bell, Mrs. Goseling, and the Schenher girls were among the more active members. Today, under the leadership of Mrs. J. Goseling, we try to help every cause in our own, as well as neighboring communities with crippled children as our project.

### MOUNT JOY SOCIAL CLUB

The Social Club holds entertainments in the old stone school every two weeks through the winter months. This is capably chaired by Roy Wiles. Larry and Tilda Wiles have both served as secretaries.

This is modelled on the Socials of the early days and the dry thirties, but cannot claim direct descent.

A practice that never failed to amuse was that of dropping money on the collection plate at church, then picking off change. Few settlers had the exact amount they wished to contribute, in their pocket.



Ogema Band, 1962

### HISTORY OF OGEMA BANDS

The first Band in Ogema was started in the fall of 1910-11 by Mr. T. Gamble. The meetings and practices were held in the workshop of Mr. J. Isted. Later they used the school house. Their instruments were bought from Fillmore. The band, under Mr. Gamble, continued until 1914. In 1917, Mr. Isted started an all school boys band which eventually fell through. Once more a band was conducted by Mr. Gamble. Between 1927-29 under the leadership of Mr. Isted, a group of young boys went to Estevan to Cadet Camp as part of the Weyburn band.

On September 12, 1958 the Ogema band was organized under the directorship of Mr. Tom E. Toddington, then of Moose Jaw, now of Regina. The first president elected was Mr. Pete Johnston, and Cec. Grainger was elected the first secretary-treasurer. The board of directors consisted of Mr. George Bacon, Mrs. Ruth McKague and Mr. Ken McKague.

The Ogema Chamber of Commerce agreed to sponsor the band which started with 23 students ranging in age from 8 to 14 years, and 3 adults. The band now in 1962 has 32 students and 14 adults. There is also a "B" Band for beginners and it has six members.

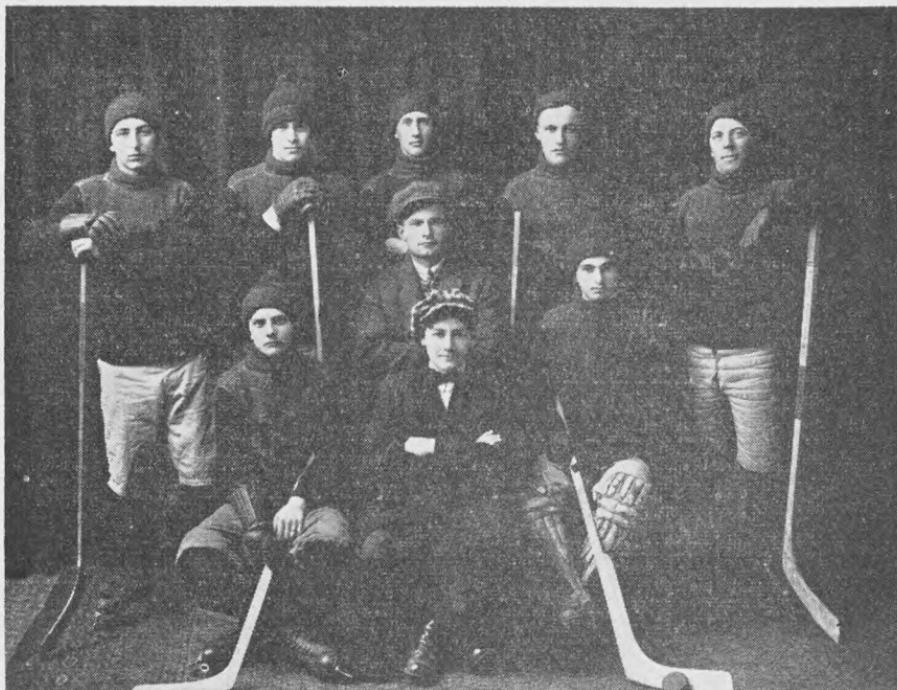
The band consists of many family groups and there are also three generations of one family in it, as well as father and son drum majors.

The present officers are: President Morley Hudson; secretary-treasurer, Cec. Grainger. The board of directors are: Doug Taylor, Elwood McKague and Jimmy Longley.

Some of the main performances of the band were: The Moose Jaw Annual Kinsmen International Band Contest on May 25, 1961 in which they placed second in their group. They attended the

#### DO YOU REMEMBER?

Joe Dunn, or "Uncle Joe" the perennial and favorite coach of the girl's softball teams?



Hockey team, 1912-13. Back row, left to right: Earl Stothers, Andrew Fraser, Carmen Merriam, Dick Pratt, Bert Fish. Centre: Stan Gayer. Front: Harold Stevens, unknown, Ernie Heron.

Pangman 50th Anniversary and the opening of their hospital, the Bengough 50th Anniversary, as well as taking part in the Armistice Day Service, and appearing at the opening of the new school in Ogema. Each year the band puts on a large concert and it gives various Saturday night concerts, from their band stand, during the summer months.

During May of this year, 1962, they journeyed to Williston, N.D., to play at the Band Festival with 72 other bands. They made their second trip to Moose Jaw to compete in the Annual Kinsmen International Band Contests, and again won second place in their group. They also had the honour of being invited to participate in the mass concert in the evening.

#### 4-H HOMECRAFT CLUB

The 4-H Homecraft was formed in 1949, with Mrs. C. Mellon, Mrs. M. Eden as leaders. They were sponsored by the Sunny South and Key West Homemakers. In 1955, the head lines in the paper were "Ogema 4-H Girls Make Clean Sweep at Farm Girl's Camp" in Moose Jaw. Two teams attended. They were Bette Clark, Donna Clark, Ruth Leguee, Millie Neald, Winnifred Warren, and Beverly Mellon. These girls came home with nearly all the prizes,

in the various competitions. Other leaders over the years have been Helen Clark, Vi Coubrough, Jean Stewart, Dorothy Evans, Alma McDermott, Jennie Smith, Donna Hartley, and Mary Anne Eden. The last two girls served as Junior Leaders after completing the courses as members.

The first president was Dorothy Cook, secretary-treasurer, Beverly Mellon. The supervisor is Mrs. M. Eden, who has served in that office since the club was formed.

It is now sponsored completely by the Sunny South. The girls have competed in "Dress Reviews" in Regina and "Demonstrations" in Regina and Saskatoon.

One girl, Mary Anne Eden was chosen to attend Waconda Camp at Wakaw. She was also invited to participate as an exchange student in Chicago and take an expense paid trip to Edmonton.

Present officers are: president; Bev. Clark, secretary, Darlene Peterson; treasurer, Avis Parry.

### **HOME AND SCHOOL**

In 1945, the parents and teachers of the Ogema school district decided they had the need of a Home and School organization. A group of parents and teachers gathered at the school on the 19th of February and the following officers were set up: president, Mrs. C. E. Martin; first vice-president, Mrs. Lloyd, second vice-president, Mrs. N. Mehnke, secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Pearl McKague.

The Charter Members are: Mr. and Mrs. Bestvater, Mr. and Mrs. G. Gurnsey, Mrs. R. Shull, Mrs. D. W. Ganton, Miss E. Heron, Mrs. J. Barton, Mrs. I. Alstad, Mrs. W. Bryson, Mrs. A. Haselhan, Mrs. A. Kinnaird, Mr. A. E. Whitehouse. The Ogema Home and School has been a very active group through the years, in the activities of the pupils and the community. Their aims are to improve standards of education, and to improve parent and teacher relationship.

The officers of 1961-62 are president, Mrs. C. Libby; first vice-president, Mrs. L. Grainger; second vice-president, Mr. R. Dunn; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. S. Hartley.

### **ALTAR SOCIETY**

The first Altar Society was formed in 1938, with Mrs. P. M. Murray as president, and Mrs. D. Johnson as secretary-treasurer and two members. These were Mrs. Les McDonald and Mrs. Frank Herman Sr. At this time with only a few members they could only have bake sales and a little sewing. As the membership grew, they put on teas and bazaars twice a year.

In 1959, they formed a Catholic Women's League with Mrs. E. Petit as president, Mrs. E. Murray as secretary, and Mrs. F. Nagy as treasurer, with 12 members. Helped by the church members, their aim is to build a new church this year.



World War I enlisted men and friends. Back row, left to right: Dave Robison, Billy Ryce, Alex Kinnard, unknown, unknown, Andrew Frazer Jr., Gavin Pettigrew, McDonough, Bill Thurman, unknown, McLean. Second row: Stanley Tolman, Jim Burns, Andrew Frazer, Harry Reid, Hill, unknown. Front row: Stanley Gayer, Tommy Neald, Dr. A. Shearer, Stanley Chisholm, Jack Balter, Alex Frazer.

### SQUARE DANCING

The Square Dance enthusiasts of the town and district are looked after by the "GLASNEVIN TWIRLERS." This club was formed in Glasnevin in November 1960 through the co-operation of the Glasnevin Homemakers, the sponsors, and John and Ivy Brown caller and instructors. In the first year of operation approximately 70 members met each Wednesday night, throughout the winter, in the Glasnevin Memorial Hall to sing, dance and enjoy their neighbours' company. The second year was started with a Jamboree featuring Gerry Hawley of Saskatoon, as guest caller, approximately 200 dancers from as far away as Regina and Saskatoon came to dance in Ogema. The second year saw such an increase in membership, that it became necessary to move to the Legion Hall in Ogema. During this season, members visited other clubs throughout the area from Earl Grey to Plentywood and from Indian Head to Assiniboia, and these visits with very few exceptions were returned. The season was ended with another Jamboree, this time featuring John Cook of Plentywood, as guest caller. Over 200 attended this dance.

Square Dancing is truly the finest form of recreation in the world today. We hope to form another group during the coming season, and to those of you who are interested, we extend a very hearty welcome and ask that you watch for announcements in the fall.

### OGEMA RED CROSS

The Ogema Red Cross branch was formed in the years 1916-1917. Andrew Fraser was the first president and Miss Ann Wilkie the secretary. Mr. and Mrs. J. Bryce were the first couple to buy a life membership through the Branch. During the First World War, The Ogema ladies did knitting and sewing for the Red Cross, and again during the Second World War. They also put on a number of plays, teas, and such, with the proceeds going to the Red Cross. Parcels were packed to be sent to the boys overseas. Often when they were short of material, the same was kindly donated by Moffett and Robertson.

During the Second World War the ladies made and quilted 60 quilts a year, as well as knitting socks, sweaters, helmets, and gloves.

In later years a Blood Donor's Clinic was formed under the Red Cross. Their Clinics being held in Ogema, sponsored by Ogema and surrounding districts. Later, Weyburn Clinic was attended. Mr. and Mrs. T. Gamble were faithful workers and received certificates of merit.

In the year 1959, Mr. W. Cross received a certificate of merit for 40 years of canvassing for the Red Cross.

In May, 1962, Mrs. Eva Rolston received a badge of service for 14 years of work as secretary.

The present executive consists of: president, Mrs. D. Evans; vice-president, J. Brown, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. E. Rolston, Water Safety; J. Evans, Blood Donor convener; Mrs. A. Lowes, J.R.C.; Mrs. V. Smeltzer. Campaign managers, Art Sterling, Alex McPhail, Disaster Conveners; W. Hammill, Mrs. Eva Rolston; voluntary services, Mrs. Dorothy Evans.

The aim of the Red Cross is "Serving Mankind."

### OLD TIMERS CLUB

The Old Timers Club was organized at a meeting held in the library on October 6, 1956, with Mr. George Wentzell president, Mr. Albert King secretary-treasurer and janitor, and T. W. Barrington, Sid Ells, and Frank Mead as the committee on membership. The north portion of the Barrington building on Ogema's Main Street was rented for their club rooms.

A few of the early members have passed away and new ones have been added. At one time, membership reached 35.

Both town and country members spend many enjoyable hours at spirited games of whist and cribbage, as well as relating tales of the past—some may be a little tall—while reclining in a comfortable chair and looking out on the main street of the town they helped to build.

#### DO YOU REMEMBER?

When Ogema boasted a flour-mill operated by Clarence Fish?

## EXPLORERS

The Explorer Group of the United Church is for girls 9-11 years of age. This group was organized in 1952 by Mrs. R. Swann, with Mrs. J. Evans as her assistant.

After Mrs. Swann's departure, Mrs. K. McKague led the girls during the years 1954-1956. Since that time, the chief counsellor has been Mrs. A. Smeltzer, Mrs. H. Dunn is her assistant.

The club provides a social and religious background for the girls, who graduate into C.G.I.T. later. This year, twenty-two girls have worked, studied, and played together.

## OGEMA C.G.I.T.

The Ogema C.G.I.T. was organized in 1920 but as there were no records at that time it wasn't until 1927-30 that we know Miss Jennie Jones, who now resides at Punnichy, assisted by Mrs. Frank McKague, led the group.

For a while the organization was defunct, but again in 1944 Mrs. Elaine Dunn and Mrs. E. Cross reorganized the group and were the leaders for a few years, then Mrs. O. Petit, assisted by Mrs. Davies took the group over in 1946.

In 1952 Mrs. Rutherford, assisted by Mrs. Bea Struthers later by Mrs. A. Cross, took the leadership. It was at this time the C.G.I.T. affiliated with the W.M.S.

The group was divided into two groups, the Seniors and Juniors.

In the early 30's the C.G.I.T. group used to go to camp at Trossachs, with the supervision of Camp mothers. Those helping in this way were Mrs. Flo Richmond and Betty Grainger, Mrs. Brock, Mrs. E. Cross and others.

The last few years the C.G.I.T. have been spending a camp week at Carlyle with many other C.G.I.T. girls.

## UNITED CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Ogema Union Sunday School was formed in 1911. The Bible class is a thriving concern of the church. Its first teacher was Mr. T. E. Gamble. No matter at what strength the church might stand, the Sunday School always moved steadily on and was a bulwark for the church. Our Sunday School sent forth ministers, teachers, social workers, and also our Joyce Kilpatrick who is a missionary in India. Our present day enrolment is 142.

About 1939, Key West Sunday School joined in with Ogema. The name was then changed to the Ogema Sunday School. Our projects are at present, the Joyce Kilpatrick fund and the adoption of an Indian family at Carlyle.

We hope Sunday School goes forth for years to come, as strong as it has been in the past.

## LEGION AUXILIARY

In February 1920, the ladies of the district organized their Auxiliary known as the Ogema Branch of the Great War Veteran's Association.

Ladies qualified for this Auxiliary by having a husband, brother, father, or nursing sister overseas: or any lady active in Red Cross or Patriotic work during the war.

The ladies on this Auxiliary at this time were: Mrs. Graham Lloyd, Mrs. A. Taylor, Mrs. W. Firman, Mrs. A. Reddish, Mrs. T. Neald, Mrs. C. Harbourne, Mrs. W. Shearer, Mrs. N. Gooden, Mrs. A. Fraser, Mrs. L. McDonough, Mrs. W. Sword, Mrs. P. McGregor, Mrs. B. Crooks, Mrs. L. K. Baird, Mrs. J. Bernas, Mrs. S. Chisholm, Miss Anderson and Mrs. Stokes.

During their existence as an Auxiliary, they made a \$25. donation to Bengough Red Cross Hospital and assisted the men in many ways.

On November 22, 1922, the Legion men rendered thanks to the Auxiliary for assisting them socially and financially and expressed their regret that they were unable to carry on this work.

On July 19, 1949, the Ladies of the district re-organized the Auxiliary known as "Ladies' Auxiliary to the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League." Which is referred to as a local.

We were organized under the direction of Mrs. Byers, Assiniboia in the Legion Hall, Ogema. Ten applications were com-



Ogema Band, 1912. Left to right: Harry Rolston, Art Whittam, Billy Firman, Ernie Sauter, Earl Dakin, Tom Gamble, Harold Stevens, Barney Cameron, unknown, Harry Hyndman, Cecil Stevens, Harvey Osborne, Jack Isted, Frank Beebe.

pleted at this time eligible for membership, in order to form the Auxiliary.

The Charter was signed October 28, 1949 in Ottawa including the following members: Dorothy Frank, president; Elsie Neald, first vice-president; Georgina Longley, second vice-president; Doris Viergutz, secretary-treasurer; Florence Richmond, standard bearer; Isabel Tondevold, pianist; Pearl Barton, Eva Silverman, Marguerite Willis, Beth Dunn, Albina Cook, Gertie Dunn, Vi McDonald, Eileen Webb and Elaine Dunn.

Our present title is "Ogema Branch Auxiliary to the Royal Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League." We have a membership today of 17 and we meet once a month in the members' homes, in order to assist the Legion men socially and financially in their work. The present officers are: Eva Rolston, president; Pearl Barton, first vice-president; Evelyn Cook, second vice-president; Jennie Smith, secretary-treasurer; Eva Smale, Standard bearer, Florence Richmond, pianist.

We stand for loyalty to the reigning Sovereign, Canada and the British Constitution. We strive for peace, goodwill and united comradeship among all those who have served in His Majesty's forces throughout the Empire, so that neither their rights nor their interests shall be forgotten, and so that their welfare and that of their dependants, especially the dependants of the disabled, sick, aged, and needy, may be safeguarded.

#### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE OGEMA BRANCH G.W.V.A. AND CANADIAN LEGION B.E.S.L.

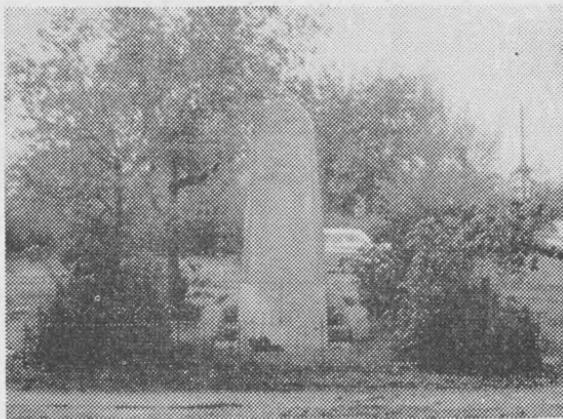
After World War I, 11 returned men met in the National Hotel in the early days of March, 1919, to form a branch of the Great War Veterans' Association, (G.W.V.A.). Bert Crooks was elected as president and C. MacInnes as secretary, G. Kerster became 1st vice-president, and A. J. Fraser, 2nd vice-president.

In August 1919 the Town Council granted the G.W.V.A. the use of the building, known as the Town Hall for club rooms.

In December, 1920, it was decided to apply for a charter, and the following Veterans became Charter members of the Ogema branch of the G.W.V.A.: J. Anderson, L. K. Baird, B. Crooks, W. W. Firman, A. Fraser, S. G. Lloyd, C. MacInnes, W. McDonald, P. McGregor, T. Neald, D. Pratt, W. Richmond, W. Shearer and A. Taylor.

In 1923 funds were raised by the Veterans and the community, to erect a memorial stone in memory of the 42 men of the Ogema district, who made the supreme sacrifice in the 1914-1918 war. The memorial stone was dedicated in the fall of 1923.

In 1926, after the visit of Field Marshall Haig to Canada,



Cenotaph  
with  
plaque  
added

the Great War Veterans Associations decided to amalgamate with other veterans organizations throughout Canada, to form the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League.

After World War II, the Canadian Legion with the co-operation of the community and surrounding district, raised funds to build the present Legion Community Memorial Hall. The hall, debt free, measuring 40x90 and featuring a modern kitchen, sewer, and water is a credit to all, who donated so generously of their time and money.

A second stone was added to the original 1914-1918 Memorial Stone in memory of the 20 men from Ogema and district, who gave their lives in World War II. Under the auspices of the Ogema Branch of the Canadian Legion, a memorial service has been held every year since 1919, on November 11, in memory of the 62 men from the district who gave their lives for their country.

Since its inception in 1919, the Legion has donated to several worthwhile organizations, such as the Red Cross, Qu'Appelle sanatorium, the Weyburn Hospital. In addition, it has sponsored local projects such as the Boy Scouts, the Christmas Cheer Fund, the Santa Claus parade.

The history of the Ogema Legion has not all been "beer and skittles", as we started out with the magnificent sum of \$1.70 in the treasury. The persistence and devotion of its members, has made the Legion what it is today. Our membership has not been as large, as it should be according to the number of veterans in the district, and our current president, Jack Bell, and the other officers and members, would like to take this opportunity to invite all ex-servicemen, in the district to join, and in this way ensure the prestige and good work of the Legion in the future.

#### DO YOU REMEMBER?

The first radios with their headphones and how the family had to take turns listening to the program?

## **Honour Roll**

### **World War I—1914-1918**

J. W. Barnett	S. Gayer	D. N. Riley
F. Baird	W. Howlett	S. Street
C. E. Berry	E. F. Heron	R. Sullivan
W. Clark	T. Hayward	V. W. Saunders
S. Coubrough	J. Holm	C. Stevens
J. Coubrough	D. Irvin	S. B. Tallman
H. Chamberlain	E. Martindale	I. Taylor
W. L. Cairns	A. Milne	R. McTavish
R. Davis	E. B. Murphy	F. McLatchie
N. Dodds	C. Merriam	F. Vancott
S. Fowler	T. Odland	P. Wright
H. Ford	N. Prang	E. Walker
C. A. Grainger	F. Rumford	E. Walmer
C. Gilchrist	H. Reuss	A. E. Watts

**A Greater Gift they could not give,  
Who gave their lives that we might live.**

## **Honour Roll**

### **World War II—1939-1945**

Z. Babb	T. Gilbert	H. Richmond
T. F. Birney	W. E. Jones	E. D. Smith
W. Booth	G. Harrison	F. Smails
G. T. Coubrough	J. Lemkie	R. B. Scott
D. Cojocari	H. Millar	S. Woods
A. Gauley	D. N. McKenzie	S. Woolhether.
	G. Pagan	

**Their bodies rest in peace,  
But their names liveth forever more.**

# Personnel War I

Allen, Andrew	Garbutt, E.	Olson, Carl
Anderson, Arthur	Garbutt, G.	Osbourne, Harvey
Anderson, George	Garbutt, W.	Paderinko, Dan
Anderson, Jack	Gayer, Stanley	Parry, James
Baird, F.	George, Thomas	Prang, Norman
Baird, Lewis	Gilchrist, C.	Pratt, Dick
Barnett, Jesse	Grainger, Cecil	Priest, Bill
Bee, G. E.	Gray, Robin	Pringle, Alex
Beny, George	Hanson, Joseph	Pringle, James
Berness, Jim	Hamilton, Raymond	Post, Arthur
Berry, G. W.	Harbourne, Cecil	Rasmussen, Bill
Boles, Frank	Hartley, Ernest	Reddish, Albert
Borland, William	Haywood, John	Rainey, Cecil
Boulden, Jack	Heron, Ernest	Reid, Harry
Bud, Bert	Himmerly, A. D.	Reuss, H.
Burdzyk, John	Holm, Johnnie	Rice, W.
Bush, George	Howlett, William	Richmond, Charles
Bywater, Frank	Hull, Sam	Richmond, William
Bywater, W.	Hunter Walter	Riley, Norman
Cairns, W. L.	Irwin, D.	Riley, Victor
Carlson, David	Kern, William	Rumford, Fred
Cayer, S.	Kerster, Gus	Saunders, Vern
Chamberlain, George	Kinnell, Bill	Seymour, John
Chamberlain, Harry	Kithcart, Art	Shearer, Dr. Archibald
Chinn, Fred	Leader, Teddy	Scarth, Enos
Chisholm, Stanley	Lindbloom, Fred	Smeltzer, Charlie
Clark, W.	Lloyd, S. Graham	Spilsbury, Stan
Coheen, E.	MacDonald, William	Street, S.
Cookes, Bert	MacInnes, Chas.	Stevens, Cecil
Cooney, Ed.	MacPhail, Alex	Sullivan, Phillip
Cooney, Percy	Mark, Ed.	Sullivan, R.
Cooney, Frank	Martindale, Ed.	Sweeney, Ed.
Coubrough, Dell	Mayeur, Frank	Sweeney, Joe
Coubrough, Harvey	McCann, William	Tallman, Stanley
Coubrough, John	McGregor, Percy	Taylor, Alfred
Coubrough, Simon	McLatchie, Fred	Taylor, I.
Cruikshank, Jimmie	McMullin, William	Thurston, Walter
Davis, Russel	McSherry, Drew	Tribe, George
Dickson, George	McTavish, R.	Tribe, Ted
Dodds, N.	Mehnke, Ed.	Vancott, E.
Dougal, Herb	Mehnke, Norman	Verboom, Marinus
Edgar, Herbert	Mehnke, Fred	Walker, E.
Firman, William	Metcalfe, William	Wadsworth, Ted
Fish, Donald	Metke, Paul	Walmer, E.
Ford, H.	Merriam, Carman	Warren, Jim
Foley, Dr.	Milne, A.	Watts, A. E.
Fowler, S.	Murphy, Elgin	Webb, Bert
Fowley, Dick	Murray, Earl	Webb, Billie
Fowley, Frank	Myland, S.	Williams, Roy
Fraser, Alex	Neald, Thomas	Wolstincraft,
Fraser, Andrew	Odland, Thomas	Wright, P.
Fulmore, Crawford	Olsen, Martin	Wyatt, Jack
Fulton, James		Yearly, Tuck

# Personnel War II

Anderson, George	Goodin, Barbara	Murray, John
Anderson, John	Grainger, Chet	Menzies, Merlin
Birney, J. F.	Grainger, Harold	McDonald, Jean
Breckenridge, Andy	Grainger, Murray	Murray, Marguerite
Breckenridge, Charles	Grey, Leslie	Mead, Joyce
Birney, Jessie	George, Art	Myren, Sid (Shaffer)
Brasseur, Hubert	Hartley, Jackson	McGregor, G. Percy
Bell, Jack	Herman, Henry	Murray, Sam
Bell, Chas.	Hudson, Mervin	McKenzie, Nielson
Barton, James	Herman, Nick	Murray, Walter
Babb, Zane	Harbourne, Jack	McDonald, Andy
Burns, Donald	Harbourne, Jim	Miller, Herb
Burns, Cecil	Harbourne, Elroy	Mooney, Walter
Booth, Raymond	Horner, Stan	McCracken, William
Booth, Walter	Holbrook, Bob	Mazur, Henry
Babb, Burrell	Isted, George	Milligan, Harold
Bell, Gene	Jocelyn, Carl	Mazur, Stan
Bell, Malcolm	Joceyln, J. H.	Neald, Thomas
Babb, Harold	Jocelyn, Les	Owen, John
Babb, Clarence	Jocelyn, Elwood (Tommy)	Ott, John
Chambers, Donald	Jones, W. E.	Rowat, Andrew
Chambers, Ken	Jensen, Jim	Rowat, Merlin
Coubrough, Jean	Johnson, Archie	Rowat, Jean
Coubrough, George (Bud)	Johnson, Norman	Parry, Frank
Cojocari, D.	Jackson, Royden	Pagan, Gordon
Caird, Jimmy	King, Art	Pratt, Wilkie
Chamberlain, Austin Dee	King, Edward	Porritt, Ken
Dunn, Ken	Kerster, Dr. John	Porritt, Albert
Dunn, Harold	Kilpatrick, Bruce	Palmer, John
Dunn, Victor	Krueger, Wilbert	Ratai, Charles
David, Donald	Krueger, Vernon	Rolston, John
Ducszyminski, Joe	Krueger, Roderick	Richmond, Herbert
Dicken, Ronald	Krueger, Norman	Richmond, Earl
Dicken, Herbert	Krashium, G.	Richmond, John
Eden, Pete	Knight, Bill (Shortie)	Richmond, Norman
Erickson, Raymond	Longley, James	Richmond, George
Erickson, Hugo	Longley, George	Richmond, William (Bill)
Erickson, Art	LaFontaine, Wendel	Reed, Cecil
Ebell, Atniel	Lightfoot, Wallace	Rowat, Vernon
Ells, Eileen	Leguee, Don	Rainey, Cliff
Frank, Fritz	Lloyd, Frank	Smid, Alex
Fish, Earl	Leonard, Leon	Smith, Frank
Fish, Leonard	Lemke, John	Smid, Joe
Fish, Grace	Laliberte, Emie	Seymour, John
Farr, Elsie	Linton, Norman	Scott, R. F.
Foley, Dr. C.	Millar, Art	Stewart, Jack
Ford, Francis (Bud)	Martindale, E.	Sweeney, L.
Gosling, Francis	McPhail, Lloyd	Schmidt, George
Grier, Earl	Menzies, Carmen	Smid, Frank
Grier, Roy	MacDonald, D. R.	Smid, John
George, Arnold	Mason, William	Scott, James
Gebert, J.	Martin, Harry	Smailes, Fred
	Murray, George C.	Stewart, Pat

## 100 — MEMORIES

Scott, Eldon	Souther, Don	Wadsorth, Ted
Smith, Ed.	Seymour, Fred	Wood, Stan
Smith, Walter	Taylor, Douglas	Wiles, Archie
Scott, Clarence	Taylor, Reg	Woolhether, Spencer
Smith, Dunsmore	Taylor, Bazil	Worden, Audrey
Sorenson, Elmer	Tondevold, John	Willis, Genie
Scott, Earl	Taylor, Robert	Worden, Jean
Schultz, Henry	Upcott, Osmond	Williams, George
Stewart, Edward	Upcott, Albert	Wilson, Robert
Stewart, John	Verboom, Bud	Webb, Danny
Spilsbury, Stan	Viergutz, Carl	Whitehouse, Ronald
Souther, Ted	VanTyle, Ed.	Webb, Walter
Souther, Clifford		Wyatt, Jack

### THE FOLLOWING SERVED IN THE U.S. ARMED SERVICES WORLD WAR II

Gauley, Andrew	Kennedy, Dee
Kennedy, Floyd	Kennedy, Bill

### SERVING IN THE FORCES TO-DAY

Alton, Danny	Gosling, Francis	McDonald, Hector
Bremner, Jean	Holbrook, Bob	Johnston, Dave
Coubrough, Wayne	Johnston, Ward (U.S.)	Neald, Robert
Chambers, Donald	Kennedy, Floyd (U.S.)	Parry, Frank
Erickson, Raymond	Longley, George	Stewart, Shirley
Eden, Mary Anne	MacDonald, Wallace	Taylor, Robert
Grainger, Harold		

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### DO YOU REMEMBER?

How father hollered, "whoa" to stop the old Ford, the first time he drove?

When the boys wore knee pants and long wool socks until they were at least 17 years old?

The old toboggan slide in the school yard and the broken teeth and bruises caused by it?

When Ogema had four elevators and a C.P.R. water tower?

The "slow" car races held at the fair?

The huge bands of horses to be seen foraging for themselves in the winter?

The jitney dances held in the open air at the end of a sport's day or fair?

The curfew bell rung at 9 o'clock in the evening to warn children off the streets?

# *History of Hamlets*

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## CHAPTER XIV

### **A M U L E T**

#### **Origin Of Name:**

A railway official picked up a trinket dropped by one of the workers, on the temporary platform of the station to be and decided to name the site Amulet, which means charm.

The first mail was gotten from Crouse Post Office in the Coulees to the north, or Calden to the east, until 1909, when the Kabeyum Post Office was opened, by Harry Martin in his home, one mile north west of what is now Amulet.

Mrs. Petty ran an eating house and store across the tracks from the present site in the early days.

Having been advised by the railway officials, as to where the town site would be, many business men had erected their shops and were in business, before the tracks arrived in 1910.

On land that was part of the Jack Dicken homestead, Jack Harris built a large building in two parts; a restaurant and poolroom. A large hall upstairs was used as a temporary school in 1910, with Gill Hulbert as the teacher of 15 pupils.

The first store to be built was a General Store owned by Petty and Ford. The Post Office was moved to the store and Mrs. Petty was Postmistress.

Mr. Finklestien opened a General Store and Fred Winklebleck a poolroom and lunch counter. Bert Dawe was the barber in this poolroom.

W. A. Lakin operated a flour and feed business.

During the winter of 1910-11 the C.P.R. reached the town site and the "Kabeyum" Post Office became "Amulet."

The heavy snowfall of the winter blocked tracks to the east, so work on the railway ceased and supplies had to be hauled by teams from Forward, to feed the crew of about 120 men, as well as pioneers. In March a snowplow, brought in from B.C., opened the railroad and work resumed.

New business places opened in Amulet. Bob McDonald had a boarding house and served meals. Joe Bradley operated a hardware, tinsmith and harness shop.

During 1911 Amulet was incorporated as a village, with Councillors Bradley and Winklebleck. Joe Warren was Overseer.

Two lumber yards were built. First the Rogers Lumber, with Jimmy Mason as manager and the Manufacturer's Lumber Co. The office of the Rogers Lumber Co., still stands and has been remodeled into the W. Webb residence.

There were also two elevators, the Conger, the first to be

built, had Lloyd Malden as buyer. H. K. Warren was agent for the Federal. The railway station made its appearance with Frank Whiting as stationmaster.

In 1912, Joseph H. Warren and Sons, owned an Implement, Coal and Wood business. They also built a livery barn and hired Fred Rumford as manager.

More new businesses appeared which were: Dr. Hulbert's drug store and practice, a dray business, a blacksmith shop, H. K. Warren's real estate and J. Diemert's store, with John Martin as manager.

In 1912, trustees appointed to see about a new school were O. A. Martin, C. L. Hodges and Joe Smeltzer. The new one room school was built by C. Hodges, Sam Adams and Andy Atcheson, and opened the same year with Mr. Hulbert continuing as teacher, followed by Miss Noble and later Miss Apex. At first the teachers did their own janitor work, then the school board hired Pat Shaw as caretaker. The school was also used by all denominations for church services and Sunday school.

The Ladies of the Community had a society which was called the Ladies' Aid.

Amulet, always sportsminded, had their first sports days in 1912. There was baseball and horse races. The Ogema band was in attendance and the Erickson Orchestra, consisting of Oscar, Pete, Gus and John, played for the big dance at night. These sports days were an annual event for many years.

The Anglican church was built in 1915-16 and is still in use. Rev. Moxon was the first minister. A hotel, built by the Browns in 1928 has changed hands many times. It closed in 1958 and is one of the few buildings still standing in Amulet.

A new room was added to the school in 1923 and also a four roomed teacherage was built (now sold to Parry). The trustees at the time were Joe Smeltzer, Albert Webb and Gen Brock. This school was closed in 1957 and bought by Eddie Mazur, torn down and the lumber sold. The high school students were bused to Ogema and the public school students attended the new one built in 1958 until it was closed in 1961 and moved to Khedive. They are bused to other schools now.

In 1946 a Community Hall was built and is still in use. A quonset built in 1950 has been used for grain storage.

The Post Office was opened by John Martin, later his wife for years. It burned down in 1946 and was rebuilt with Mrs. Martin and Elsie acting as postmistresses.

The Station Agent was removed from Amulet in 1933. One by one other business places were closed, the owners moving to larger centres or retiring. Today, in 1962, Amulet's once thriving L-shaped main street consists of many empty lots and vacant buildings.

Jack Thompson, who as a thirteen year old boy in knicker pants, climbed the stairs to attend school above the poolroom, runs the only business place in Amulet, with the exception of the Pool and Searle elevators. He owns and manages a combined garage, Post Office and store.

## KAYVILLE

### Origin Of Name

The name of Kayville was formed by taking the last part of the name McKay and adding Ville—Kayville.

Billy McKay and Julius Martin, ranchers, were the first to settle in the area, arriving about 1903 or 1904 and then between 1908 and 1911 homesteaders of English and Scottish descent began to arrive, followed in 1912 by settlers from Rumania.

Mail, prior to 1912, was received from Strathlorn (also known as Key West) Post Office. The Post Office in Kayville was built in 1912 and Billy McKay was the first Post Master. When the railway reached Kayville in 1924, the Hamlet was formed but was not organized as such until 1949.

The first storekeeper in Kayville was Don Kozack and the first poolroom operator was Eftim Ritco. Both of these men are still residing in the Village.

### KAYVILLE CHURCHES

#### The St. Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church

This church was built in 1908 on ten acres of land donated by the Government. Its first minister was Reverend Benedict Elesco. The barn was built in 1912.

#### St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

St. Mary's was erected in 1915 on land donated by Mr. John Ursu, Sr. and was incorporated in April of 1925. The barn was built in 1920. The first minister of the church was Reverend Filant Gheorghin.

#### Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

The members of the church hauled the materials from Horizon and built this church in 1923 on land donated by Clem Ritco. Its first minister was Reverend Samuel Ivanoff. He left Kayville but returned after eighteen years and is once again the minister of the church.

#### The Christ Lutheran Church

It was built and dedicated in 1928 and had as its first minister Reverend Birkhardt from Spring Valley.

### EXCELSIS SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 2994

The school district was organized and debentures sold in 1913 with Ed. Harrison, Harry Stebbings and J. C. Mitchel acting on the first school board. Mrs. Mitchel was the secretary.

The Excelsis school was built by E. Erickson of Ogema in 1913 and was located one mile east and a half mile south of Kayville. It opened the same year with 14 pupils attending. Miss Marie

Many homesteaders grew their first potatoes from the potato peelings thrown out by the cook of the railway construction crew.

McDonald was its first teacher. In 1927, due to the increase in attendance, the classroom was enlarged but by 1928, with the enrollment reaching nearly 80, it was impossible to carry on in the small school, so the Lutheran church in Kayville was obtained. Mr. Jonathan Dell was engaged as teacher in the Hamlet and Mr. Charles Wilcox in the rural.

The rural school and contents were destroyed by fire March 16, 1937, while Miss Rustina Vatataarniuk was teaching there. A new public school was built in 1938, in the hamlet of Kayville and the high school students attended school, in what was originally Dan Ritsco's store.

In 1957-58 a new school was erected in Kayville and opened in the fall of 1958.

The old Public School building was moved to Ogema to be used as a municipal garage and the former High School was moved onto the school grounds to be used as the auditorium.

The Kayville High School students are now taken to Ogema by bus, to attend school there.

## **EDGEWORTH**

The Edgeworth district was settled in the years 1909-12 by pioneers from different parts of the world. It is built on land purchased from A. Melchert.

In every district there must be a first and these are some of the "Firsts" in Edgeworth.

The Lutheran Church built in 1911.

First telephone, the Gores Telephone Co., terminating at the Barrington homestead in 1914.

The first motor vehicle operating was a Model T Ford owned by T. W. Barrington in 1918.

The first road graded was in 1919 and is now a modern grid road.

The C.P.R. railway reached here in 1924 and officially named the place "Edgeworth."

The first elevator was built in 1924 and was operated by Mr. Buckel.

The first coal shipped in via rail and retailed, was by T. W. Barrington in 1924..

The first school opened in 1924.

Percy Fulmor built and operated the first General store in 1925.

## **EDGEWORTH LUTHERAN LADIES AID**

The Mission Circle was organized on May 14, 1935 under the supervision of Rev. L. S. Winters, residing at Corinne, Sask. The first meeting was held in the home of Mrs. Herman Miller.

Since 1938 we have been sponsoring the Lutheran Hour Broadcasts each year. During the war years we sponsored the

Red Cross, Milk for Britian, Salvation Army and others. Refugee work was also carried out, such as knitting and sewing. Several parcels were sent to our boys overseas. To-day we support the Bethany Old Folks at Meadow Lake.

We supply our children with Sunday School material and since 1956 we have been sponsoring the Vacation Bible School each summer, to which we extend an invitation for all children to attend.

Each year we cater to the Mission Feastable, at teas, at fowl suppers and serve for weddings, auction sales and the like.

We have made several quilts and have done a lot of bazaar sewing. Our congregation has built a new church and it has taken a lot of financing on our part.

Since 1955, we have sold articles that have come from our mission station in Hong Kong. The proceeds are returned to the mission station, this being the only source of income of many of the people over there. Each year we conduct a clothing drive, which is sent to Lutheran World Relief.

Within the Ladies Aid we have two guilds, the Anna, and the Martha, each meets once a month. Our minister meets with us for topic study and devotional readings, followed by a business meeting.

We have been holding regular meetings for 27 years and hope to continue throughout the years.

Our present executive is: president, Edna Heintz; vice-president, Dorothy Rorbeck; secretary-treasurer, Kay Fish.

### **EDGEWORTH CHURCHES**

In the year 1911, Rev. H. A. Nuoffer of Corinne, Sask., discovered several Lutheran families in that section of Saskatchewan which was then called Dirt Hills. He arranged services for them, and after a few months, on March 19, 1911, the St. Luke's Congregation, in the Dirt Hills, now called Edgeworth, was organized. A constitution was drawn up and signed by the following members; Mr. Otto Gehn, Mr. Ernest E. Moerike, Mr. Herman Miller, Mr. Frank Moerike and Mr. Daniel Schultz. On April 16, after the services, Mr. August Luebke signed the constitution and on May 21st of the same year, Mr. August Viergutz signed.

On June 16, 1912, Mr. August Viergutz offered to give two acres of land in Sec. 21-9-22 to the congregation for church property and later Mr. Otto Gehn also gave two acres. Both offers were accepted with thanks.

Up to this time services had been held in the homes and in Wagner school house, but it was decided to build a church and parsonage on the new church property. The living quarters were to be downstairs and the church on the second floor. Making of the basement began on August 8, 1912.

On August 18, 1912, the first resident pastor, Candidate H. E. Plehm was installed by Rev. H. A. Nuoffer.

Lutheran day school was organized in the year 1913. The school benches were home made.

In April of 1914, it was decided to reserve  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre of land for a cemetery south of the church.

## HISTORY OF ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CONGREGATION AT EDGEWORTH, SASK.

The St. Luke's Congregation joined the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and other states in the year 1922. In the same year the Manitoba-Saskatchewan district held its first session in Lanedesdren.

In 1931, the Mission Board rearranged the parishes joining Kayville and Ormiston to Spring Valley and Edgeworth and Pangman to Corinne-Riceton Parish. In 1934, fall of the year, Ceylon was added to the parish. The parish now comprised the following stations: Corinne, Riceton, Edgeworth, Pangman and Ceylon.

The Ladies Mission Circle was begun on May 14, 1935. The first meeting was held in the home of Mrs. Herman Miller Sr. On May 18, 1935, the Young People's Society held its first meeting in the church with 15 percent.

On August 23, 1936, the congregation celebrated its 25th anniversary in the grove of Mr. Peter Rorbeck Sr. Both services were conducted by Rev. K. Krohenbil from Wordsworth. The ladies of the congregation furnished the lunch.

In the spring of 1938, Rev. Winter opened two new preaching stations, one at Bures and the other at Dummer. The first service at Bures was conducted on April 24, 1938, with an attendance of 70. A Sunday School was also organized, it numbered 22 children. The first divine service at Wagner school was held on June 5, with an attendance of 33.

In 1939, the congregation saw the need of a new church and on April 30, 1944, Mr. August Melchert gave two acres of land at Edgeworth for the site. On October 24, 1944, we began tearing down the old church. During this time church services were held in the Edgeworth school.

A year and a half later on May 20, 1946, the building of the new church was begun at the new site at Edgeworth. In the fall of 1947 we had our first service in the new church with Rev. R. H. Threinen our resident pastor at the time. In 1955 Rev. Mantynen, one of our pastors, designed the altar and pulpit, which had not yet been completed.

Our church at Edgeworth is not quite complete, but the entire church was built by the members of the congregation. In October, 1961, we celebrated our 50th anniversary of the founding

### DO YOU REMEMBER?

When Bob Bliss found a set of false-teeth in the livery barn, propped them open and set them up on a stall post?

of our church—the St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church at Edgeworth.

At present we are being served by a vacancy pastor, Rev. Holzhiemer from Regina. We have called several candidates and it is our sincere hope that we will soon have another resident pastor of our own.

## BURES

When the C.P.R. branch line west of Amulet was built in 1924, construction began on the Pool elevator, which stands on land belonging to C. P. Ennals. On completion of the elevator in 1925, Simon Beau took over as the first agent.

Mr. Quinn bought the old Grain Grower's store in Ogema and moved it to Bures in 1933. He built on an addition, for living quarters. Then he and his wife opened up a general store and post office in September of the same year.

## DAHINDA 1905 - 1962

Dahinda began as an inland Post Office, near the old Dahinda school, which was built on land homesteaded by David McKenzie.

### Origin Of Name . . . .

There are two stories told of its origin.

1. John Schmidt, one of the first settlers when asked in Milestone where he had settled said, "Der hinder," which in German means "way back there," and "Der hinder" or Dahinda, became the name of the settlement.

2. When suggestions were asked for a name for the district Mrs. Harry Ireland suggested "Dahinda" which is the name for a type of bullfrog.

There are so many firsts. The Anglican Church was one of the first churches south of the Soo Line. It was built on land donated by Mr. Martindale and for all denominations to use, until other churches could be built. Homesteaders hauled all materials for it, from Milestone and Wilcox. They supplied their own lunches and slept in livery barns. So like the west, it was built with an effort. Later it was moved to Dahinda, leaving its cemetery as a land mark. The German Lutheran Church was also moved into town and another land mark was gone.

J. C. Mitchel, who was also our Postmaster won the "Crown Wheat King," title of the world and Saskatchewan four different years, in 1919, 1923, 1924 and 1926.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Ireland had a small store, the first, opposite Dahinda school and Mr. Ireland hauled the mail for several years from Glasnevin.

### DO YOU REMEMBER?

When a lady's rink challenged the men to a curling game and the boys confused the men by secretly heating one of each pair of rocks?

The railways were a big factor in the settlers' lives. When the rails were laid through Dahinda in 1924, two elevators were built and life became much easier.

A new community hall was built and still stands. At one time the village consisted of two general stores, pool room and barber shop, a butcher shop, Security Lumber yard, McCabe and Pool elevators. Four fires through the years destroyed first, the butcher shop and lumber yard and later Lapp's General store. Another store was moved in from Ogema but it too was destroyed by fire.

Through the years of our growth, four sets of twins have been born in the district.

## **G L A S N E V I N**

The village of Glasnevin, built on land belonging to Mrs. Grace Clark was named by Robert Anderson after a village in Ireland.

The first store was built and operated by Mr. Clark and his wife. It also housed the Post Office. Another store was opened by Percy Tripp, and a pool room and dance hall was managed by Bill Jones. The pool room today is part of the Ed Martindale home.

Tom Clark also owned a blacksmith shop in the early years, but in 1916 Alfred Leonard became the village blacksmith.

In 1911, the C.P.R. reached Glasnevin and in 1913 the Golden West Elevator was built from the lumber of an elevator at Macoun, which had been torn down and shipped by rail. John Owen came from Weyburn to help with its construction and stayed to become grain buyer.

Four years later it was sold to the Federal Grain Co. and Mr. Webb became buyer in 1924. In 1921 or 22 a second elevator, Union Grain, was erected and sold to the Pool in 1928. Mr. Herb Webb left the Federal and became agent for the Pool, Mr. Owen taking the position of grain buyer for the Federal. Mr. Webb remained as Pool agent in Glasnevin until 1935, when he was transferred. John Owen retired after 45 years of buying grain in this village.

The Pool cottage was built in 1928 and the Memorial Hall after the Second World War.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Martindale operate the store that once was the Clark store and sell gas from gas pumps that take the place of the old tie posts out front.

Mrs. Owen, the first bride of Glasnevin is the only resident Pioneer left of the early days.

I think the luck of the Irish holds good for Glasnevin because at present it is a happy, prosperous village.

### **DO YOU REMEMBER?**

Dan Stacey, who carried a hammer in his pocket to nail down loose boards in the sidewalk, when he was town policeman?

## HARDY VILLAGE

This year, 1962, Hardy celebrates her 50th year.

The rolling prairie was first pioneered by A. D. Stephens in 1906 and in 1909 Mrs. C. Sanders settled near what is now Hardy.

Because of the need of lumber, by the early settlers a lumber yard was erected in Hardy in 1911. Also a restaurant was built during this year and run by Hans Benn. These were the first two buildings in Hardy.

In 1912 E. R. Davis (now deceased) opened up a feed store and coal shed.

The C.N.R. reached the village sometime around 1912 and the Reliance Elevator was built the same year and run by Dan Kane. This elevator was torn down in the 30's.

The first store and Post Office was built in 1912 by A. Kelly Sr., who operated both store and Post Office. In 1913 the second elevator was built, then the Atlas, now the National. The Pool elevator made it's appearance in 1924. The same year the first school was built and it was opened in September.

Since then buildings have been added to the village—a pool hall, barber shop and ice cream parlor were opened by Fred S. Fowler. Then a Station House, a section house and a church were built. Later on, a curling rink, another school, two garages, a hall and several homes were erected. The most recent new building is the 92 ft. white Pool elevator built in 1959 to replace the one destroyed by fire in 1958.

Today the places of business are the old Kelly store, two garages, one run by Bernard Aspen and the other by John Murray, also the two elevators, Pool and National, run by L. Ritsco and Fred McDonald.

The C.N.R. has two diesels a week, going west Wednesday and Friday and east Thursday and Saturday. The passenger cars have been discontinued.

The population of Hardy is now 60-65. Many of the old pioneers have died and new faces have appeared, but the friendliest little village in Southern Saskatchewan lives on.

One locator lost a horse during the night. The next day he walked beside the other horse holding up one end of the neckyoke for some 14-15 miles.

Earl Farr as a bachelor homesteader made a rolling pin from a binder roller. It is still in use to-day.

### DO YOU REMEMBER?

When Joe Seir, returning from a hockey game at Weyburn got off the train at Wallace?

Hughie Townsend's dance hall and ice-cream parlor, where our library now stands?. And Hughie riding on a toboggan pulled by a beautiful St. Bernard dog?

# *The Rural Municipalities*

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## CHAPTER XV

### THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF THE GAP No. 39

The Local Improvement District No. 39 was formed in 1910 and had the first meeting in March of that year. The members of the Local Improvement Council were Robert Sutherland, Thomas Catherwood, Micheal McGrath, Oliver O'Hara, and Robert Ostic.

The first chairman of the Local Improvement Council was Thomas Catherwood and the Secretary Fred Shupe. The first meeting was held at the farm of Thomas Madigan, about 2½ miles south of Ceylon.

The Local Improvement District was incorporated into a Rural Municipality in the early part of 1911. The first reeve was Alvin Cressman and the first secretary-treasurer was Fred Shupe, who remained on the job until the summer of 1927, when the position was taken over by the present secretary-treasurer, Mr. A. O. Heaney.

The first tax rate set by the local Improvement Council for municipal purposes was 1¼ cents per acre at their June 1910 meeting.

The first tax rate set for municipal purposes by the first council of the Rural Municipality of the Gap No. 39 was 5½ cents per acre at their April 1911 council meeting.

The first municipal hall was size 14 x 20, being built in the summer of 1911.

In the years 1935-36-37, the municipal dam east of Ceylon was built, and two community pastures were formed.

The municipality was declared a restricted area for the Eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis and also established as a Pure Bred Sire area in the year 1943.

In 1945, the council entered into a Veterinary Service Agreement along with the councils of R.M. No. 40, R.M. No. 69, and R.M. No. 70, but it was many years before the services of a Veterinarian were obtained.

The present municipal tax rate is 28 mills and this has been the rate for the past five years.

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#### DO YOU REMEMBER?

When No. 13 highway went through the town?

## THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF NORTON No. 69

The Rural Municipality of Norton No. 69 was incorporated effective January 1st, 1910.

The first regular council meeting was held on January 3rd, 1910 in Kenneth School, about 4½ miles North East of Pangman. Council was: Duncan McKecknie, Reeve Ernest Marr, Div. 1; Reuben Hubbard, Div. 2; C. A. Martin, Div. 3; Dave Pritchard, Div. 4; Frank Hanna, Div. 5.

No councillor was elected for Division 6.

J. McKecknie was appointed secretary-treasurer at a salary of \$450. per year.

E. J. Young took his seat as councillor for Div. 6 on March 5th, 1910.

Road overseers were appointed: Horace David and Wm. Dickin for Div. 3, and Burton Booth and A. McPhail for Div. 6.

Tax rate for 1910 was set at 4½ cents per acre.

The following have served terms as councillors for Div. 3: O. A. Martin, T. Stueck, W. Brent, H. Warren, John Anderson, B. Reed, J. Bothwell, H. McKague, Fred Webb, A. Smeltzer, Ed Mazer, and the present councillor, Herman Gurskey.

In Division 6, there were: E. J. Young, L. E. Tribe, E. A. McCready, M. H. Weatherall, M. F. Lindstrom, Geo. Bell, O. A. Morrow, and presently Ivan Powers.

L. E. Tribe and M. H. Weatherall both served terms as reeve of the Municipality.

Council meetings were held in Village Hall in Pangman from 1912 till 1921 when a new municipal office was built.

Secretaries of the Municipality have been as follows: J. M. McKecknie, 1910; Chas Shears, 1911; J. F. Diemert, 1912; J. M. McKecknie, 1913-1915; R. J. White, 1915-1916; T. A. Neely 1916-1943; V. Rogers, 1943-1945; D. R. Armstrong, 1946—

In 1910 a total of \$5,500.00 was budgeted for roads.

In 1961 a total of \$40,000.00 was budgeted.

## RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF BENGOUGH No. 40

Sid Tucker—Chairman; Martin Hauer and Mr. Bumpan—Councillors. (First minutes recorded), Feb. 1st, 1910, UNA, Saskatchewan.

The first meeting of the Local Improvement District No. 40 was held at Stover's Store on January 31st, 1910, all councillors being present.

Moved by Councillor Bumpan, seconded by Councillor M. Hauer that Councillor Tucker be Chairman. Carried.

Moved by Councillor Tucker, seconded by M. Hauer that R. W. Sully be appointed secretary-treasurer for 1910 at a salary of \$100.00 per annum. Carried.

The secretary was instructed to write to the Municipal Commissioner re old District 3S2, to make enquiries re supplies and to get lists of land holders for Assessment purposes.

Resolved that the Councillors should receive \$2.00 per meeting and 10 cents mileage.

Meeting adjourned.

Sid Tucker, Chairman.

R. W. Sully, secretary-treasurer.

\* \* \* \*

The Local Improvement District was formed into a Rural Municipality of Bengough No. 40 and the following were elected Reeve and Councillors: Sid Tucker, reeve; C. F. Wood, councillor; J. R. Ersch, councillor; O. A. Hainstock, councillor; V. L. Gee, councillor; George Bristow, councillor; and A. W. Blanchard was appointed as secretary-treasurer.

Oliver Johnson was elected Councillor for the year 1917 to January, 1920, Robert Anderson was elected Councillor for the year 1917 and elected Reeve in 1918 and he held that office to December 1930. H. E. Mead elected councillor for the year 1930 and continued until January 1st, 1954. Albert Eade and George Johnson also served as councillors for some years.

The present secretary-treasurer took over the office for R.M. No. 40 as their secretary in July 1917 (W. C. Williams).

### RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF KEY WEST No. 70

In 1907 this part of Saskatchewan was mapped out into improvement districts. Part of this area was in improvement district No. 4-R-2-and part in No. 5-R-2. Each district had an elected committee, which worked with the government representative. The members of the committee of district No. 4-R-2 were Mr. Samuel Smith, Chairman, Mr. J. Vail, secretary and Mr. S. Stueck. Mr. Robinson of Regina was the government representative. During 1908, the committee met twice. One of the resolutions of this committee was, "that the rate of taxes for 1908 be 1½ cent per acre." For 1909, members of the committee were Messrs. Smith, Heron, Martin and Mundie with Mr. C. Bacon as secretary pro tem. Committee met four times that year. The tax rate for 1909 was 2½ cents per acre. Among other things the committee bought eight scrapers from Mr. Hill of Yellow Grass at \$8.25 each. Also the following were appointed weed inspectors at \$10.00 a year; Mr. Bacon, Mr. Clarence Hedge and Mr. J. M. Barnett.

In 1909 the Rural Municipal Act was passed establishing Local Improvement Districts and Municipalities with boundaries much as they are to-day. This area became Local Improvement District No. 70. The following were elected councillors of the Municipal Committee: Division 1, F. J. Mead of Key West; Division 2, R. F. Heron of Key West; Division 3, J. S. Burns of Key West, Division 4, C. G. Moerike of Kraus; Division 5, J. J. Lamb of Dahinda and Division 6, H. B. Argue of Dahinda. They took office as of January 1, 1910 and carried on much as former committee.

This municipal committee on May 4th, 1910 submitted a petition to the government asking that Local Improvement District No. 70 be established as Rural Municipality, suggesting the name of

Key West as first choice. A certificate accompanying the petition stated that about 400 people lived in the municipality. The department ordered a vote to be held September 9th of that year and appointed Mr. J. J. Lamb as Returning Officer. The result of the vote was 42 in favor and two opposed. On September 29, 1910, Hon. A. P. McNab, Minister of Municipal Affairs issued an order incorporating Rural Municipality of Key West No. 70 to take affect as from December 12th, 1910. In the election that fall the following were elected members of the council as from December 12, 1910 and for 1911; Reeve, C. F. Moerike of Dummer; Division 1, T. E. Gamble of Ogema; Division 2, J. S. Burns of Key West; Division 3, T. Clark of Key West; Division 4, P. Erickson of Kraus; Division 5, F. Bywater of Dahinda and Division 6, H. B. Argue of Dahinda.

The council held their first meeting in Strathlorne school December 23, 1910. Mr. J. J. Lamb was appointed secretary-treasurer and assessor at \$750.00 a year and Mr. Bywater was appointed Deputy-Reeve. At their first meeting the council also decided to build a municipal office and Messrs. Erickson, Burns, Clark and Gamble were appointed building committee. At their next meeting the council passed their first bylaw, a bylaw to issue relief to needy residents and \$50.00 was issued to a resident. Herd bylaw was the next bylaw passed. The first printed financial statement was for the year 1912. It indicated that the municipal tax levy for that year was  $3\frac{1}{8}$  cents per acre a total of \$8,938.91. Arrears of municipal tax as at December 31, 1912 were \$10,141.50. School tax varied from 5 to 10 cents per acre.

During the 50 years, many were the problems that received the attention of the council. Probably the most difficult issue was that of a union hospital, an issue which received the attention of the council for many years. Even though the building for a hospital was completed through public contributions, an attempt to establish a hospital at Ogema failed. Eventually divisions three and six joined Bengough Union Hospital and divisions 1, 2, 4, and 5 joined Pangman Union Hospital.

Members of the present council are: Reeve, Jack Scrimbit of Kayville; Division 1, J. E. Myren of Ogema; Division 2, S. R. Button of Ogema; Division 3, Nick Klemenz of Horizon; Division 4, Peter Rorbeck Jr. of Edgeworth; Division 5, Leo Viergutz of Dahinda and Division 6, George Fluter of Kayville. Secretary-treasurer and assessor, W. J. Burak. Municipal tax levy for 1961 was 21 mills amounting to \$50,830.16 with school tax levy varying from 22 mills to 33 mills, totalling \$61,708.32. Arrears of municipal tax as at December 31, 1961 was \$14,805.71. Assessment for 1961 was \$2,387,200.00. Estimate of cultivated acreage 194,056 acres. Estimate of population 1175 people.

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**DO YOU REMEMBER?**

The local news items printed on the backs of Louis Seir's sales bills?

# "Firsts in the Community"

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## CHAPTER XVI

- First Store in community—C. W. Erb.  
First store in village—Sargent & Bruntton.  
Insurance and Loans Office — J. A. Horner.  
Postmaster—R. L. Greene.  
Post Office—Greene's Insurance Office  
Village Secretary-Treasurer—J. M. McLean.  
Fire in Town—January, 1915.  
Post Offices in District—O. A. Martin, Amulet; F. Heron, Key West.  
Baby Born in Ogema—Ross Sargent.  
Baby Born in the District — Ethel Brooks, Glasnevin, 1906.  
N.W.M.P. later R.C.M.P. — Constable Worgan.  
Church Service — Held in Sargent's tent.  
Minister in the District—Rev. Whitehouse.  
Druggist—Dr. Patterson.  
Veterinarian—Dr. Shearer.  
Doctor and Health Officer—Dr. Allan.  
Butcher—W. H. Dicken.  
Church Wedding—April 7, 1915, Bert and Jennie Mead.  
Telephone in District—C. Heron, 1909.  
Burial in Cemetery—Frank Harris.  
Talking Picture—Hugh Townsend.  
Undertaker—Joe Dakin.  
Shoemaker—Tuck.  
Weight Scales—Built on main street by Greene.  
Town Cop—Arthur Jones.  
Disease Epidemic—Measles, June 1911.  
Picnic—July 12, 1912.  
Poundkeeper—Thomas O'Brien.  
Harness maker—R. J. Grant.  
Census taker—R. K. Rounds, July 5, 1912.  
Printer—J. A. Frawley.  
Hotel—J. Nurnburger.  
Blacksmith—W. Edwards.  
Carriage and Wagon Maker "Wheelwright"—J. Isted.  
Telephone in Town—1913.  
Fire Chief—W. C. Davidson.  
Fire Engineer—Jack Krueger.  
Bell ringer—V. W. Saunders.  
Ogema Agriculture Fair—1914.  
Co-operative Business — Key West Grain Growers—Chas Tuck, Manager.  
Vote on Fast or Standard Time—Mar. 14, 1919.  
Electric Light Plant—Mr. Murphy in 1919.  
Curfew Bell—July, 1920.  
Winner of Baby Contest — Marjorie Poole.  
Cement Sidewalks — 1927 on Main Street.  
Train Crew—Jimmie Wallace, conductor; Jack MacGaven, mailman; Joe Reed, brakeman.  
First Homestead in Key West—Mr. Benjamin Grainger, 1905.  
Furrow ploughed in Key West—W. E. Grainger.  
Passenger Train to reach Ogema — Aug. 16, 1912.  
Experimental Farm — Tom Gamble, 1920.  
Wheat King Crown—J. C. Mitchel, Dahaha, 1919.  
Baker—George Stothers, June, 1911.  
Banker—J. M. McLean.  
Dray Business—L. W. Lafontaine & Co.  
Tax Rate—10 mills.  
Council Chambers — E. Coubrough's present home.  
Lawyer and Solicitor—A. E. McKinnon.  
Gas "bouzer"—G. G. West, 1913.  
Dog License—1911.  
Poll Taxes—1911.  
Boy Scout Group—1920.  
Chautauqua in Ogema—1920.  
Illuminated Sign of "Gasoline Lights" —Benjamin & Morrison Store.  
Tree-planting Train in C.P.R. coach—1924.  
Skating and Curling Rink—1912.  
Colored Street Lights—1948.  
Christmas Trees on Main St.—1952.  
Sunday School Superintendent—T. E. Gamble.

# *Brief Outline of Weather and Crops*

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## CHAPTER XVII

- 1905—The year ended very dry, the sloughs were dry and burnt off from prairie fires.
- 1906—Started off dry. Later rains came and it was quite wet through the spring season. Fair crop.
- 1907—The winter of 1906 and 1907 was the longest and perhaps the coldest and stormiest the west has seen this century. No seeding was done until late June. A large bank of snow could be seen on the north side of the Big Butte in July. Hail destroyed some crops that year.
- 1908—Bad weather, heavy snowfall. Crops were mostly good.
- 1909—Prairie fire in the late fall, bad blizzard New Year's eve.
- 1910—Heavy fall of snow June 6th or 10th. Wet and late spring, poor crop.
- 1911—One and a half feet of snow May 25th. A bit on the dry side later. Crops fair in spite of shortage of moisture.
- 1912—Lots of snow, late spring. Crops good.
- 1913—Cyclone on August 11th, two men killed, lots of snow. Crops very good.
- 1914—Hot spell in July, crops fair excepting on light land.
- 1915—Was perhaps one of the most peculiar years we have seen, crops were very good and some in shot-blade. On June 15th crops were frozen black. Everyone thought it was the end of the crops, but with good rains and stooling out it developed into one of the best crops seen in the district.
- 1916—Very cold winter, 54 below at Weyburn (unofficially).
- 1917—Average precipitation and crops.
- 1918-19—Fair crop. July brought a hailstorm.
- 1920—Fair crop, slightly rusted.
- 1921-22—Almost done seeding when two inches of rain came, good crops. Bad blizzard on March 18, 1922.
- 1924—Elevators took all the grain grown.
- 1925-26—Plenty of snow and spring rains. In spite of another bad hail-storm crops were good. Due to hailstorm many windows were broken.
- 1927—Many people happy, a very big crop after hailstorm in 26.
- 1928—Snowfall light, below average rainfall.
- 1929—Light snow, continuing dry. Shortage of feed.
- 1930-31—Dry years, very little grain harvested.
- 1932-33—An average year, but no reserve subsoil moisture, plenty of grasshoppers.
- 1934—Crop was cut for feed. Thistles were cut and put up for feed too. Snowstorm on September 23rd.

- 1935—There was a very good growth but the crops were badly rusted.
- 1936—Only fair crops, not much rainfall.
- 1937—This was the "Daddy" of them all for being dry. No crop, grain had to be shipped in. Farmers were supplied with seed for spring '38.
- 1938—The spring and summer were good again, rust took most of the crops excepting Thatcher wheat.
- 1939—Things looked much better, rains were again putting sub moisture in the ground, early snowfall.
- 1940-41—These were good years for the farmers. March 15 of '41 worst blizzard since 1920, several cattle froze.
- 1942—Crops were good. Snow early in fall. Ten percent combining was all that was done.
- 1943—Lots of snow, late spring. Many combined 1942 crops before seeding.
- 1944—Average winter, heavy snowfall about the 5th of May. Good rains through the summer.
- 1945—Heavy rains during later part of June and first part of July. Fairly good crops.
- 1946—The crops were average, the winter cold with heavy snowfall, 14" of snow, 23 degrees below.
- 1947—Hard, cold winter, with heavy snowfall and frequent blizzards in early months. Some lives were lost. Cyclone in July. Good crops.
- 1948—Spring late, 2 feet of snow on April 3rd. Good crops. Late fall with no snow until November.
- 1949—Average year except for a bad windstorm in June. Early winter with a heavy snowfall in October.
- 1950—Early part of year cold and stormy. Heavy snowfall on June 8th. Good crops. Cold winter.
- 1951—Late spring, snowed April 19th. Five inches of snow on June 6th. Twenty-second of January, terrible blizzard. Rain in fall, grain sprouted in the fields.
- 1952—End of June, heavy rain. Snowed on 15th of October, snow disappeared, it snowed again on 7th of November.
- 1953—Rain on June 24th, a heavy rain filled sloughs. No snow until 4th of December.
- 1954—Lots of rain, first snow the 1st of September.
- 1955—Third of May, high wind and rain. Plenty of rain during summer. Light hail on 3rd of June. Heavy frost 6th of September. Snowed on October 19th, melted. December 12, 13 and 14 was the worst blizzard in years. Lots of storms in December.
- 1956-59—Crops were average, not too much rainfall or snow.
- 1960-61—Very little precipitation, grasshopper infestation.
- 1962—Threat of cutworms and grosshoppers. Some five inches of rain to date.

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DO YOU REMEMBER?

When the "Young Fry" of Ogema built a model elevator?

The old fly-sticker coils hung from the ceilings in the summer?

*Patronize the  
Advertisers who  
made this book  
possible*

*Congratulations Ogema on your  
50th Anniversary . . .*

**The Ogema  
Rebekah Lodge No. 27**

Meets 8 o'clock each Wednesday  
in the I.O.O.F. Hall

Instituted January 20, 1914

*Congratulations  
TOWN OF OGEMA  
on your  
50th ANNIVERSARY*

**Dr. H. C. Struthers**

Veterinarian

OGEMA — PHONE 61

*Congratulations*  
*Ogema and District*  
*on your*  
**50th BIRTHDAY**

**R.M. Key West**  
**No. 70**  
**OGEMA, SASK.**

— COUNCIL —

- Reeve—JACK SCRIMBIT  
Division 1—J. E. MYREN  
Division 2—S. R. BUTTON  
Division 3—N. KLEMENZ  
Division 4—PETE RORBECK, Jr.  
Division 5—LEO VIERGUTZ  
Division 6—GEORGE FLUTER  
Secretary-treasurer—W. BURAK

# The Ogema Chamber of Commerce

*Congratulates the Town  
on their 50th Anniversary*

President—LAURENCE GAMBLE

Secretary—CECIL KAZILL

**CONGRATULATIONS**

*to the  
Town of Ogema  
50 Years of Progress*

**Texaco Canada Limited**

WEYBURN, SASK.

Consignee: Frank Dufour

# *Congratulations Ogema*



## **On 50th Anniversary**



# **Libby & Sons**

**Department Store**

\* ***Groceries***

\* ***Meats***

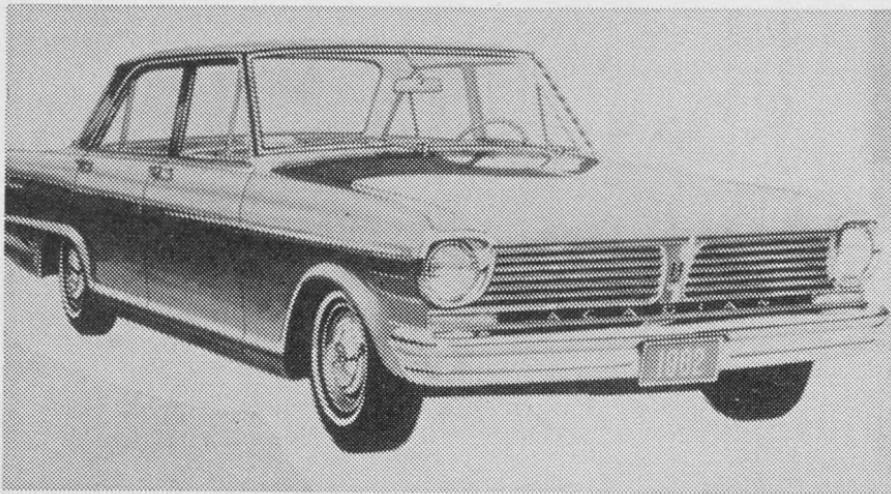
\* ***Dry Goods***

**SMILING SERVICE**

**PHONE 44**

# Fritz Frank

PONTIAC      BUICK      G.M.C. TRUCKS  
ACADIAN      VAUXHALL



INVADER 4-DOOR SEDAN

The First All New Canadian  
COMPACT CAR 1962

Service at its BEST — bring your  
car to us for Guardian Maintenance

Ogema - Phone 43

We wish to Congratulate All the  
Pioneers of the District on this  
50th Anniversary

# Fritz Frank

Massey Ferguson Dealer

OGEMA, SASK.

PHONE 43

The World's Largest Manufacturers of  
Farm Implements

Full Industrial Line of Equipment

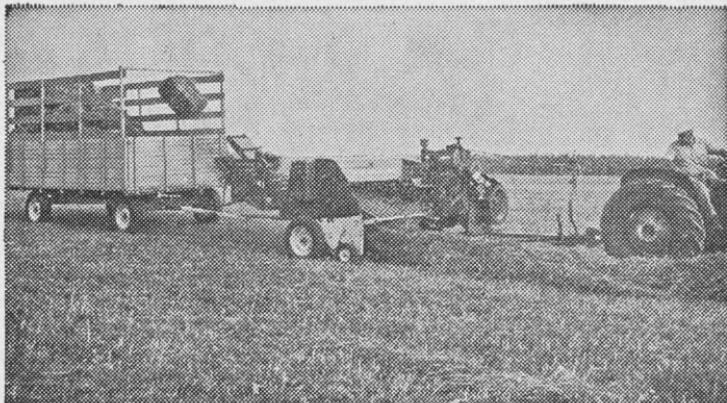
For Service and Parts see your Massey  
Ferguson Dealer

We wish to Congratulate all the Pioneers  
of the Ogema and District for their 50th  
Anniversary

---

## New Holland

World's Greatest Hayline Manufacturers



Larger feed openings and adjustable feeder backs are two of the reasons 1962 balers like this one have a greater capacity. New curved feeder tines distribute hay evenly throughout the bale chamber and assure uniform bale density under a wide variety of crop conditions.

FRITZ FRANK, OGEMA

# Petit & Lacille

Gravelling

Excavating

PHONE 74

OGEMA, SASK.

## ELWOODS CLOVER FARM STORE

- \* Groceries
- \* Produce
- \* Frozen Foods
- \* Non Foods

OGEMA

PHONE 49

**CONGRATULATIONS  
OGEMA and DISTRICT  
on your 50th  
ANNIVERSARY**

The present Real Estate and Insurance business operated by J. B. Kilpatrick was first started in 1910 by Joseph Abraham Horner. The location however was a tent on the site where Mrs. Florence Myren now resides. In 1911 the present office now standing on Main Street was erected and in the same year J. A. Horner was joined by his son Clarence to form the firm of J. A. Horner and Son. The business was carried on under this name until the death of Clarence Horner in 1923. J. A. Horner continued to operate, until it was sold to Ernest Alexander in 1929. The business functioned under the name of E. A. Alexander until 1934 when Ernie left to rejoin the R.C.M.P. J. A. Horner continued the management of the business until his death in 1937.

The business was purchased by Edwin Albin Kilpatrick in August of 1937 and operated in the name of E. A. Kilpatrick until May of 1958 when it was sold to his son and present owner J. B. Kilpatrick.

**J. B. Kilpatrick**

**REAL ESTATE**

**NOTARY PUBLIC**

**INSURANCE**

**OGEMA, SASK.**

# DUNN BROTHERS

---

JOHN DEERE SALES AND SERVICE — IMPERIAL OIL AGENT  
COAL DEALER — GARAGE — FARM SUPPLIES

PHONE 57

---

We are happy indeed to extend our hearty congratulations to the town of Ogema and District on fifty years of progress.

---

Norman and Joe Dunn first took up farming in the Ogema district—Joe in 1909, and Norman in 1911. In 1925 they moved to Ogema and started in the oil and coal business in a small office directly South of the Bank on railway property.

In 1927 they took over the John Deere Implements and moved to the present location. In 1946 Norman, Harold, and Vic entered a partnership. Joe retired and moved to Regina. In 1952 Norman retired from active duty and later moved to the city. In 1953 Harold went farming. The present day staff consists of Vic Dunn as manager, Robert Parks as Shop Foreman and Parts man, and Rod-erick Krueger as Truck Driver and Mechanic.

**BEST WISHES**

*from*

**INLAND Construction Ltd.**

Offices at: 546 Manitoba St. East, Moose Jaw

510 1st Ave. East, Assiniboia

**CONGRATULATIONS ...**

Town of Ogema  
on your  
**50th ANNIVERSARY**

**MACLEODS**

AUTHORIZED DEALER

FARM — HOME — AUTO SUPPLIES

BENGOUGH, SASK.

REG. YOUNG — Owner

# Ogema Drug

REXALL DRUGS

A. HASELHAN

DRUGS      STATIONERY      GIFTS  
KODAK FILMS      VET. SUPPLIES  
PRESCRIPTIONS CAREFULLY  
COMPOUNDED

PHONE 24

OGEMA, SASK.

## Canadian Breeders Service

14 DIFFERENT BREEDS OF BEEF AND DAIRY  
PROVEN SIRES

ALL PROGENY and PERFORMANCE TESTED  
CANADIAN BREEDERS SERVICE

PHONE 165 — OGEMA, SASK.

(If no answer  
call 124)

SANDY MIHULINSKI  
Technician

*Congratulations Ogema  
on this your 50th Anniversary*

WELCOME BACK YE  
PIONEERS

# Ogema Cafe

Phone 56

J. Richmond, Prop.

# Roy Wiles & Sons

OGEMA, SASK.

ELECTRICAL, CONTRACTING, MAINTENANCE  
INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL  
DOMESTIC AND MOTORS  
LIGHTING AND COMMUNICATIONS

*See us for estimates*

Phone 17 r 3

# Congratulations Pioneers

*on*

*Your 50th*

*Anniversary*

# Town of Ogema

# OGEMA MACHINE SHOP

General Blacksmith

Acetylene and Electric Welding

Heavy Pressing and Iron Works

Rod Weeders and Cultivator Shovel Sweeps

Roll-O-Flex Shanks

**PETER BARON**

PHONE 71

OGEMA

Building Movers

Hip Roof Barns Lowered

Buildings Straightened . . .

**HOWARD THOMPSON**

Phone 142

Bengough

**FRED FARR**

Phone 12-13

Ogema

ATTEND AND ENJOY YOUR  
SUMMER FAIR  
in conjunction with  
*Ogema's  
50th Anniversary*

Exhibits on display  
Parade Celebration and Grandstand—July 20th  
Church Services and Picnic — Sunday, July 22nd  
(Exhibits must be in by 12 o'clock noon,  
Thursday, July 19th)

To all contributors towards "Specials"  
Grains, Forage, and Ladies' Section,  
our Sincere Thanks.

The Officers and Directors  
of  
The Ogema Agricultural Society

**BEST WISHES  
PIONEERS**

*of Ogema and District*

from your

**OGEMA DISTRICT CREDIT UNION**

SAVE REGULARLY

BORROW WISELY

**Ogema Hardware**

TAPPAN GURNEY APPLIANCE

CHINaware AND NOVELTIES

KYANIZE AND STEPHENS PAINTS

BUILDERS HARDWARE

FARM SUPPLIES

PHONE 38

Prop. KEN SMALE

*50th Anniversary Congratulations*

*The Town of Ogema*

*and the Pioneers who made it*

*a town to be proud of,*

*and developed a way of life*

*worth fighting for.*

**Ogema Branch  
Royal Canadian Legion**

**No. 67**

**in conjunction with**

**THE LADIES' AUXILIARY  
OGEMA BRANCH**

*Hearty Congratulations to the Town of  
Ogema on their 50th Anniversary*

# Cocar's Hotel

LICENSED BEVERAGE ROOM

LUNCH COUNTER

FULLY MODERN ROOMS

TOM and PETE

CONGRATULATIONS

to the

PIONEERS AND OLD TIMERS OF  
OGEMA AND DISTRICT  
ON THIS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

# W. J. Smith

PHONE 53

**CONGRATULATIONS  
to  
OGEMA and COMMUNITY  
on its  
50th ANNIVERSARY**

Particularly to those old timers and Pioneers who helped in our various organizations around fifty years ago, and those who followed and carried on to make Ogema and district the wonderful community it is today.

I farmed from 1911 - 1940. Since 1940, it has been my privilege and pleasure to serve you at the Imperial Service Station and as your International dealer.

**H. E. MEAD**

# Imperial Oil Ltd.

The Pioneer Oil Company of this district wish to congratulate the Town of Ogema and Community on 50 years of real progress.

---

Imperial Oil first established a bulk plant in Ogema in 1912. The shed and tanks were located near the stock yards with Bill Davidson as agent. Later the plant was moved to its present location with Jack Chambers, J. G. Murray, H. N. Dunn, and Vic Dunn as agents respectively.

In the early days two main products were stocked, Premier Gasoline and Raylite Kerosine, with delivery in barrels. Today five main products are stocked and delivery by tank truck meter. We are proud of our progress and proud to be a part of this community for 50 years.

We join with all

Citizens in extending

Hearty Congratulations

to the

**Town of Ogema**

on its

*50th Birthday*



**ROYAL BANK**

***CONGRATULATIONS to the  
Town  
of OGEMA  
on the occasion of its  
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY***

We are pleased to have had the opportunity of being associated with you in the growth and development of your Town and District, and wish you continued growth and prosperity.



**FREE ACCIDENT INSURANCE**  
**for qualified customers.**

**See your local FEDERAL agent  
for details**

**FEDERAL GRAIN LIMITED**



# All around the farm

**...WE'RE  
ALWAYS AT YOUR SERVICE**

As your local B-A Distributor, we're always available for advice when it comes to lubrication problems around the farm.

#### B-A GASOLINES

Canada's most modern gasolines...specially suited for farm use...give you maximum power and more working hours per gallon than ever before.

#### B-A PEERLESS HEAVY DUTY MOTOR OIL

The top-quality detergent motor oil...that cleans as it lubricates. Gives trouble-free lubrication under all weather conditions.

#### ALL-PURPOSE B-A FARM GREASE

With 101 uses around the farm. Use it anywhere you need a top-quality, heat-resistant, water-repellent grease.

G-5488



# Carl Viergutz

OGEMA

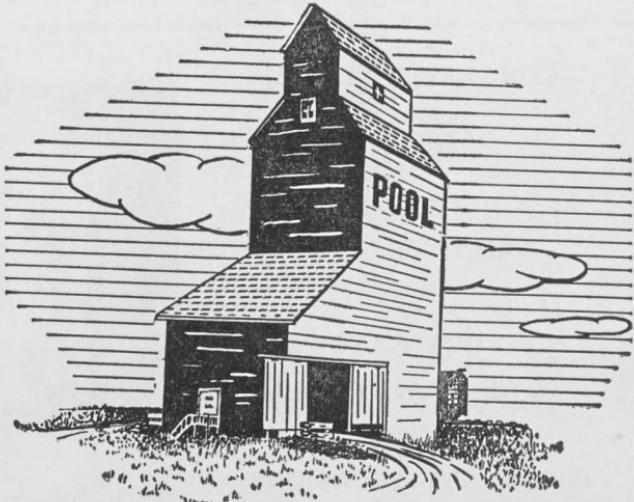
SASK.

# Congratulations!

*to the  
People of Ogema District  
on the  
50th Anniversary of the Community*

The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool takes pride in serving the people of Ogema and district and being part of its community life. The Wheat Pool was built by pioneer farm people working co-operatively to bring order into grain marketing. Their success is visible in farmer owned and controlled Pool facilities.

Serving  
Saskatchewan  
Farm Families  
for  
38 Years!



## SASKATCHEWAN WHEAT POOL

HEAD OFFICE - REGINA

HEAD OFFICE—REGINA

## CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE TOWN OF OGEMA  
ON THE OCCASION  
OF THEIR ANNIVERSARY YEAR

from the

## Ogema District Homemakers Clubs

DAHINDA  
HARP TREE  
HAPPY VALLEY

KAYVILLE  
SUNNY SOUTH  
GLASNEVIN

*"For Home and Country"*

CONGRATULATIONS,

*Ogema*

ON YOUR 50TH  
ANNIVERSARY

LIKE YOUR BANDSMEN,  
YOU'LL ALWAYS FIND  
US AROUND ON  
IMPORTANT OCCASIONS.

THE WEYBURN  
*Review*



*Cecil Granger*



144 — OGEMA FROM AIR



The success of this publication is a tribute to the long patient hours of good humored enthusiasm put into the selection and editing of the material within.

The Anniversary Jubilee committee cannot allow this book to go to press without commenting on the time and effort invested in it by Mrs. Jean Eden.

SUNNY SOUTH HOMEMAKER'S  
Pres.—Clara Farr,  
Sec.—Grace Colwell

## *Pioneer Song*

(TUNE—JOHN BROWN'S BODY)

A very special welcome to you, our Pioneers  
And to your sons and daughters who've stayed on thro'  
the years  
And to friend and neighbor a hearty welcome too,  
Ogema planned this celebration just for you.  
Shake the right hand of your neighbor  
Say "Hello" to friends that you once knew  
Lift your voice in song and laughter  
This 50th party's meant for you.

—MRS. RUTH COOK